

A Message from Dr. Armstrong



Hello Clovis Community,

I wanted to take this time to thank you for making my first five months a wonderfully welcoming experience. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to get to know you and learn more about you from a more intimate and intentional perspective than I had as a candidate. I have had the opportunities to meet with you individually and collectively, and I appreciate your openness, transparency, and frankness with regards to opportunities and strengths as we continue to build upon your outstanding foundation and continue to move forward – post COVID – as the preferred institution of higher education that we strive to be.

In my remarks on Opening Day, I stated the following would be my goals and vision for CCC:

- Continual process improvement
- Commitment to support DEIA culture
- Strengthen our position as “The Community College”
- Support and highlight the SLOs at the institutional level

Continual Process Improvement

Based on your strong foundation, and reputation as a “transfer College,” I have tasked Stephanie Babb and Vice Presidents Monica Chahal, Lorrie Hopper, and Marco J. De La Garza to establish and mark CCC as a premier transfer college.

The following are areas to highlight in this process:

1. State all the transfer recognitions and awards.
2. Establish us as a research institution – the quality of faculty that I have observed qualifies us especially – STEM (with focus – STEAM)
 - i. MESA
 - ii. Title V Grant
 - iii. NSF Grant
 - iv. Student Research Awards
3. Build our Honor's Program – establish a Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
4. Addressed and continuing to address Institutional safety protocols and communication strategies to empower both students and employees (especially as it pertains to evening night safety and basic first aid.)

5. Conversations with DO about placing baby changing tables in our bathrooms as we have none
6. Place standard redline near circle of Building AC1 to provide easy and unencumbered access for emergency vehicles.

And, to institutionalize the College as a Guided Pathways College by promoting on our website and publications the College's commitment to equity practices.

Commitment to Support DEIA Culture

1. All Senates and Councils have been asked to provide an operational definition of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility specific to Clovis. Included areas where the College is not able to provide (list areas of exclusions).
2. Established Community Advisory Committees: African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latinx, LGBTQIA+, and Business Industry/Community
3. Establish a Clovis Community College HBCU connection – Board approved travel to HBCUs in October
4. Purchased internal and external signs to boldly and openly express our commitment to our LGBTQIA+ and students with disabilities
5. The rainbow flags are proudly and permanently hanging on the flag poles at both the Herndon Campus and Clovis Campus.



You are welcome to use the restroom that best aligns with your gender identity or expression.

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Wonderful Welcome Reception held on campus for President Dr. Armstrong

An amazing Welcome Reception was held on campus on March 15 for President Dr. Kim Armstrong. Employees, community members, and dignitaries enjoyed the special event. It was an evening filled with love, laughter, and fellowship.



President's Message Continued

Strengthen Position as "The Community College"

1. Extend participation on community boards to VPs, Deans, and Directors who are interested
2. Increase opportunities for community stakeholders to come to campus and participate at our activities
3. Increase visibility and media through information stories

Highlight SLOs at Institutional Level

1. Leverage the SLOs as a means to demonstrate the high quality of CCC graduates.
2. The impact on these SLOs on transfer rates, on employability rates, on our students taking leadership positions in our region.

As we strengthen our commitment to serving our external community, we are also strengthening our commitment to creating a welcoming environment

for lifelong learning and internal stakeholders by holding celebrations like "Let's Celebrate Clovis" and Tenure Faculty Celebration. In addition to us working on defining and providing operational definitions of DEIA for Clovis, we are defining what we want Clovis culture to be for faculty and Classified Professionals in recognition before we get too big. As we define our culture and operational definitions, we are developing and refining our onboarding practices specific to our college.

Lastly, as we prepare for accreditation and strategic plans, we will also be intentional about telling ourselves and our stakeholders what Clovis has done and who we are. Starting in the fall, I will be asking that each unit be intentional about helping everyone to have a personal connection to the Clovis' Mission, Vision, and Values.

The Mission, Vision, and Values are prominently posted on the Vice President's Council and President's Full

and Small Council meeting agendas. These council members are asked to share how they live up to the mission at each meeting. They will highlight a core value and be mindful and intentional about executing that value for the month.

These are best practice contributions that I have seen at other colleges implement and that I did at my other colleges that garnished commendation for accreditation. Our accrediting coach and strategic plan consultant talked about connecting actively to the mission. This is a method that I have used for over 20 years that helps everyone, regardless of title or position, to feel a connection to not only our Mission, Vision, and Values but to your individual impact on student success.

Thank you for welcoming me as your president. I am proud to serve you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim E. Armstrong".



CCC earns two placements on the "Best Accredited Colleges" 2023 rankings.

#21 Best Associate Degrees in Psychology and
#27 Best Associate Degrees in Sociology.



CCC Celebrates Black History Month with Engaging Events and Activities



Drum's songs, rhythms, and beginner techniques. The locally black-owned restaurant, Rhapsody's southern cuisine, was also served after the activity. Other community partner-based events included the Art Exhibit in AC1 titled, "This is Our Story – This is Our Song," by the 80s Heavies, a group of Alumni from Howard University, and a career panel of four local African American professionals who shared their journeys, how they navigate the corporate environment and career advice to students.



Two campus field trips allowed students to experience Black history off campus. The first was a trip to Allensworth State Park, California's first African American town, and then to San Francisco, where students embarked on a campus tour of San Francisco State University, followed by a visit to the Museum of African Diaspora.

By Akyia Ervin

Knowing our Past to Build our Future was this year's theme for Black History Month at Clovis Community College.

To kick off the month, our college President, Dr. Kim Armstrong, gave an outstanding and inspirational speech at our campus's Inaugural Black History Month Opening Ceremony on the history of her family's generations that paved the way for her to be the leader she is today. There was also singing of the National Black Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and a student poetry reading during the event. After the event, guests participated in the Unity Art Project, where they filled canvases with their handprints, using colors of the Pan-African culture: red, black, green, and yellow, representing unity and pride.



A special thanks to campus collaborators for hosting the 5th Annual African American Read-In and the History Department's Dr. Patrick Fontes and Professor Dominique Garcia for their History Talks presentation on Reimagining the Civil Rights Movement.

To wrap up the busy month, the SCCC African American Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony recognized the contributions of outstanding African Americans who have either attended or worked on behalf of the district. Finally, in closing, and making way into Women's Herstory Month, there was a discussion, led by Dr. Francine Oputa on race, power, and gender using themes from the movie Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

In the words of some of our student attendees, their learning during the month included that "the Black experience has roots further than I could have ever known, we must appreciate history, and that we are all connected."

The monthly Charge Up Wednesday hosted by Student Activities featured the Fresno African Drumming Circle, where facilitators guided participants in learning the Djembe



2023 Champion for Excelling in Equitable Course Placement!

Clovis Community College was recognized as a top performer in the following categories:

- **Campuswide English Enrollment:** Successfully supported 100% of their students to enroll directly into transfer level English coursework.
- **Latinx English Enrollment:** Successfully supported 100% of their Latinx students to enroll directly into transfer level English coursework.
- **Black English Enrollment:** Successfully supported 100% of their Black students to enroll directly into transfer level English coursework.

CCC Hosts the Soroptimist International of Clovis Annual Scholarship Awards Event

By Stephanie Babb

The Soroptimist International of Clovis recently celebrated their “Live Your Dream” Educational & Training Awards for Women where 35 local women were honored with cash awards (totaling \$38,000) to assist with their educational goals. Dr. Armstrong was asked to speak to the awardees. The event was held on February 9 at the Herndon Campus of Clovis Community College. Of the awardees, 23 women attend CCC, seven women attend Reedley College, three women attend Fresno City College, and three additional women from Clovis who attend other regional education programs. CCC student Amanda Abbott is a distinguished honoree in having received the highest award of \$2500. Amanda will now be a candidate for a regional award of additional \$5000. [add photos]



CCC Hosts Districtwide Tutor Expo with National Speaker

By Stephanie Babb

CCC is excited to host the annual State Center Community College Tutor Expo on March 4 with over 400 tutors from all SCCCDC campuses. The CCC Tutorial Center debuted its Virtual Reality Tutoring with a company called Oculus. National speaker Dr. Barbara Oakley, Educator, Writer, Engineer, served as the guest speaker. Dr. Oakley's current work focuses on neuroscience and learning, and she is an author of multiple books including Uncommon Sense Teaching: Practical Insights in Brain Science to Help Students Learn, Mindshift: Break Through Obstacles to Learning and Discover Your Hidden Potential, and A Mind for Numbers: How to Excel in Math and Science. She has been a keynote speaker at several conferences including the On Course National Conference and she co-created the most popular open online course in the world through Coursera entitled “Learning How to Learn” for adults and for youth.



Inaugural Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Day Luncheon held on March 15

By Stephanie Babb

Team CCC joined the SBDC to celebrate their inaugural National SBDC Day luncheon on March 15 at The Painted Table. Executive Director Rich Mostert provided an informative update about the SBDC. The Inaugural “Dr. Lori Bennett Leadership Award” was presented to Andrew Haussler, Assistant City Manager of the City of Clovis. For well over a decade, Andy has been stepping up to help create

a better quality of life for the City of Clovis and neighboring communities. He has a keen focus on what needs to be done to foster economic and community development and is willing to roll-up his sleeves to help local organizations and groups further their missions. His tireless efforts can be seen in numerous business, community, and housing projects.



CCC's Emergency Response Team completed an emergency response training on March 21. The team will continue to meet regularly to work through emergency preparedness training exercises.

Chancellor Dr. Carole Goldsmith and newly elected SCCCDC Trustees Robert A. Fuentes and Destiny Rodriguez, and Trustee Deborah J. Ikeda visited our campus on January 25. The special visit included a tour, listening to amazing student programs and services.



CCC Celebrates Women's History Month

By Maricarmen Figueroa

Our campus celebrated the incredible achievements and contributions of women through a range of events to honor Women's History Month. We kicked off our programming with International Women's Day Celebration on the 8th highlighting women around the world. Students and staff had the opportunity to engage in activities and embrace equity. The Trivia Night event hosted by the student center highlighted women and challenged participants to test their knowledge and learn more about the remarkable women who have made history. The Open Mic Night provided a platform for individuals to share their personal stories of womanhood and the inspiring women in their lives. Celebrating Women in Leadership brought together campus resources and female leaders to recognize and support the amazing women in our community.

The Women's Wellness Fair provided a safe space for women to discuss important topics related to mental health, safety, and overall wellbeing. This event was a collaborate effort amongst our student government and health and psychological services to raise awareness and give away important resources. The Women in STEM Panel showcased current female faculty in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, providing insights into the incredible career opportunities and contributions of women in these fields. This Women's History Month Clovis Community honored and celebrated the immense impact of women in our society, and to continue to work towards gender equality and empowerment for all.



Featured Program – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

CCC partnered with the United Way of Fresno and Madera Counties to offer free tax preparation for those who earned \$60,000.00 or less. The VITA project was staffed by CCC business students and offered tax help every Saturday from February 11 through April 15. A big "Crush" thank you to Accounting Instructor Eunji Seo who organized this amazing program.

- 83 tax returns were filled.
- 6 students volunteered for a total of 167.25 hours.
- 4 students earned one unit of work experience (COTR 19V).
- CCC's site offered a total of 48 hours of service (6 hours x 8 weeks).

Accounting Instructor Eunji Seo led the effort to host the first in-person Meet and Greet event on February 2. Students met with professors, counselors and peers in Business and Information Technology. Students visited with various Student Services representatives.



On February 14, President Dr. Armstrong was among a select group of attendees to a community roundtable hosted by Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Dr. Armstrong had the opportunity to provide input on higher educational issues and to hear about issues of importance, locally, regionally, and nationally.



April was Sexual Assault Month, and CCC held various awareness presentations on campus including a powerful presentation on prevention of Human Trafficking. All were welcomed.



Clovis Community College started its first Asian American Heritage Festival

By Pa Thao

The Asian American Heritage Festival invites the public, staff, and students to broaden their understanding. Two events were held in April to promote diversity and inclusion. The festival showcases many Asian cultures and what's seen above the surface. On the other hand, the discussion panel event was held to discuss Asian stereotypes and learn more about what's underneath the surface.

On April 26, the Hmong dancers kicked off the Asian Fest with a joyful dance, followed by the dragon dance performed by the Fresno City College Asian American Club, representing bringing good luck and blessing to the community. The show also included K-pop dancers and Clovis Community Crush Got Talent singer. The show ended with showcasing different cultural fashions and games.

The following day, on April 27, an hour-long discussion panel was held. The panelists were faculty, staff, and students from different cultures and ages. Each panelist talked about their experience with Asian stereotypes and expressed their feeling towards the Asian hate crimes that rosed during the pandemic and how the Asian community is changing.

The recap video on the Asian American Heritage Festival can be seen on the Clovis Community College Welcome Center YouTube.

Clovis Community College received a grant to provide additional services and support to our Asian American students.



Congratulations to all our amazing student-athletes who were honored at the Kiwanis Torch of Excellence!



CCC Holds Events for All!

In honor of Hijab Day of February 22, the CCC Muslim Student Association club held a panel discussion and Q&A event, and attendees were able to try-on a hijab. Also, on February 22, the Catholic Student Association hosted an Ash Wednesday Mass on campus. President Dr. Armstrong was excited to participate at both events and interact with students and community members.

The Disabled Student Programs & Services Department held a “Transition to College” event on March 9. It was a great turnout with 68 students and parents.

Counselors shared lots of information about DSP&S, including how to access accommodations and campus resources and services.

EARTH DAY – April 20! CCC partnered with Xtreme Green Recycling and SCFT Local 1533 to host an E-Waste event on campus. Free on-site data destruction was offered along with disposal of e-waste including computers, laptops, cell phones, televisions, and more.



The Crush Athletics Department were excited to visit the students at The Diamond Learning Center on April 12. Student-athletes mingled, signed autographs, and distributed Crush “swag packs” to the students. It was an honor to support the DLC as they have been extremely generous to the college.



ASG held a Pizza with the Presidents on April 11. ASG President, Ashu Yadav, and College President Dr. Kim E. Armstrong engaged in a meaningful conversation with faculty, staff, and students

Classified Senate held a Valentine Gram fundraiser with proceeds going to help with student scholarships. Over 1200 V-day grams were sold! Dr. Armstrong gave all the employees a V-day gram in support of the CPs fundraiser.

CCC Counselor Michelle Warkentin planned a wonderful night out for the Leon S. Peters Program Honors students. They enjoyed dinner and a show at Roger Rocka’s Dinner Theater on March 5.



In April, SCCC PD came out to Clovis Community College to connect and interact with the College community. President Armstrong stopped by their booth and enjoyed a danced with the police officers.



CCC students, faculty, staff, and faculty participated at the Virtual 2023 CCC LGBTQ+ Summit on April 19-20. The summit focused on improving not only individual community college campuses but encouraging changes at the structural level to better serve and affirm LGBTQ+ students.



Congratulations!

- Each spring semester, the CCC Academic Senate awards two faculty members the TNT Award for Faculty Excellence. In Spring 2023, the Academic Senate recognized **Stacy McArron** and **Stephanie Coffman** for their outstanding contributions to our college.
- **Dr. Michael Gomez** published an article titled, "How to construct liquid-crystal spectacles to control vision of real-world objects and environments."
- We are very proud of CCC Music Instructor **Tony Gennaro** as his musical talents are included on Michael Byron's "Halcyon Days." The album has been extremely well-received and featured on BandCamp's Best Contemporary Classical of February 2023.
- The Speech and Debate Club led by CCC student, **Mikaela Silva**, President and founder of the club, won the bronze medal at the Statewide Speech and Debate tournament in Woodland Hills from March 9 through March 12.
- On March 29, **Angelina Petrakis** earned the 2023 CCCAA Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll recognition! She is a former women's Crush soccer team member and currently serves as the women's soccer team assistant coach.



- A Big "CRUSH" heartfelt congratulations to **Caryss Johnson** who was recognized as the 2023 Classified Professional of the Year at Mega Conference on April 4. Caryss has served our students, faculty, administration, the district and classified professional with heart, devotion, and a deep commitment to excellence.



- Congratulations to all the Classified Professionals who were nominated for SCCCD Classified Professional of the Year.
- **President Dr. Kim E. Armstrong and team** were honored to receive a proclamation from the City of Clovis Mayor and Councilmember on April 3. The college participated in two community events to celebrate National Community College Month: Fiesta de los Ninos event on April 16, and Clovis Rodeo from April 26-30.
- For the third consecutive year, Clovis Community College head coach **CJ Albertson** left his mark at one of the most prestigious running events in the world. On April 17, Albertson ran 2:10.33 to finish in 12th place overall at the 127th annual Boston Marathon.
- Congratulations to all the employees who received a service award on April 27th!



Congratulations to our Newly-Tenured Faculty



- Heather Boynton**, Early Childhood Education
- Alicia Diaz Wrest**, Librarian
- Erin Dolin**, Occupational Therapy Assistant
- George Fontes**, History
- Cody Hoover**, English
- Spencer Irish**, Psychology
- Amy Peterson**, Math
- Shilpa Ranganathan**, Sociology
- Omar Ruiz-Trejo**, American Sign Language
- Elizabeth Rutledge**, Counseling
- Michelle Selvans**, Geology
- Jenna Tague**, Math

Welcome New Employees & Promotions

- Tanya Baronian**, English Instructor
- Cindy Chavez**, English Instructor
- Grace Freymiller**, Biology Instructor
- Bonita Gomez**, Director of Basic Needs & Retention Services
- Leticia Mendoza Gonzalez**, Financial Aid Specialist
- Machele Gonzalvez**, Senior Accounting Technician (promoted)
- Leslie Hernandez**, Office Specialist
- Erin Kent**, Instructional Administrative Assistant (lateral)
- Erin Lane**, Psychology Instructor
- Angel Magdaleno**, Utility Worker (promoted)
- Kevin Medeiros**, Web Content Engineer
- Sagnita Rai**, Office Specialist
- Clarke-Lauren Richard**, Black Student Success Counselor
- Erica Riggs**, Financial Aid Analyst (promoted)
- Moustafa Shahin**, Economics Instructor
- Riley Wasson**, Custodian (PT to FT)
- Ger Xiong**, Director of Student Success Programs

CCC's Classified Professionals recognized at the May Board for the inaugural Spirit of Education in Honor of Classified School Employees Week

Nico Escobar, IT Customer Support Assistant
Debbie Jensen, Budget Technician
Tyler Johns, Science Laboratory Coordinator
Caryss Johnson, Senior Program Specialist – Student Services
Houa Xiong, Science Laboratory Coordinator

Caryss Johnson was awarded the District Spirit award!

Congratulations to our retirees.

Thank you for all your years of service and commitment to SCCCD and Clovis Community College!

Jeffrey Burdick, English Instructor
Jose Campos, Custodian
Cynthia J. Elliott, English Instructor
Christopher Glaves, Mathematics/Engineering Instructor
Cheryl L. Lock, Financial Aid Analyst
Debbie Nieto, Instructional Administrative Assistant
Sallie Pfeiffer-Turpen, Child Development Instructor



Happy Birthday to our fellow Colleagues!

January

Tony Abbott
Karen Anderson
Nellene Benhardus
David Cao
Michael Gomez
Andrew Ho
Lorrie Hopper
Michelle Johnson
Teresa Mendes
Amy Peterson
Scott Phillips
Tony Romero
Omar Ruiz-Trejo
Melinda Schwamb
Von Torres
Emily Wilson
Amy Yocupicio

February

Reynani Chappel
Galin Dent
Stephen Dent
Gerald Eisman
Akiya Ervin
Anthony Gennaro
Robin Huigen
Anna-Marie Miller
Rachel Moring-Garcia
Diana Salas
Ryan Shirey
Diane Schoenburg
Tracy Stuntz
Kira Tippins
Howard Wu

March

Rosa Alcazar,
Chad Bogosian
Maya Davis
Machele Gonzalez
Max Hembd
Cody Hoover
Brandon Huebert
Spencer Irish
Debbie Jensen
Angel Magdaleno
Stacy McArron
Rich Mostert
Brent Nabors
Jared Rutledge
Rebekah Villalta
Cindy Walker
Nathan Wensko
Diana Whaley

April

Stephanie Babb
Naomi Forey
Jason Gardner
Karie Hannigan
Teng Her
Gurinder Khaira
Anna Martinez
Robyn Nearn
Debbie Nieto
Crystyn Lynch
Erica Riggs
Jacquelyn Rubalcaba-
Muniz
Jamie Shepherd
Michael Stannard

May

Megan Bennett
Bonnie
Boonthavongkham
Stephanie Briones
Jose Castaneda
Nancy Chavero
Vicki Cockrell
Penny Cristan
Erin Dolin
Christine Garduno
Laura Gonzales
Gurdeep Hébert
Kirtley King
Natalie Minas
Cynthia Quintanilla
Helena Reed
James Sewell
David Tinker

“Let’s Celebrate Clovis” events for employees!

Like the Social Hour events held last year, the “Let’s Celebrate Clovis” highlights a program to celebrate while mingling and building relationships with each other. The first event was held on March 31 to celebrate our Information Technology Department. The second event was on April 27 to celebrate our Occupational Therapy Assistants Program.

President Dr. Kim E. Armstrong has been out and about sharing the “Crush” spirit at various events:

- City of Clovis Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast
- CCC Classified Senate Meeting
- CCC African American Success Initiative Welcome Event
- Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce 5th Annual Business Salute to Martin Luther King Luncheon
- Clovis Unified School District CTE night
- City of Clovis Council Meeting
- Clovis Chamber Salute to Business Awards Luncheon
- Legislative Day in Sacramento
- Bethesda Church Educational Panel
- Reg-to-Go events at Gateway High School, Clovis North High School, and Clovis East High School
- American Heart Association “Go Red for Women” Luncheon
- Women of Virtue Celebration Dinner
- Fresno Pacific University Leadership Forum
- Fresno Pacific University Inauguration for President André Stephens
- Clovis Chamber of Commerce “Big Hat Day”
- Welcome Speech at the annual SCCCD Mega Conference
- Guest speaker at the Black Women Organized for Political Action meeting
- Pizza with the Presidents – joined ASG President Ashu Yadav
- Welcome at the “Wake Up Clovis” meeting for the Clovis Chamber of Commerce
- Clovis Unified School District Superintendent’s Mid-Year Luncheon
- Soroptimist International of Clovis “It’s Time for Tea” Scholarship Awards Fundraiser
- 2022 Workforce Achievement and Excellence Award
- Clovis Rodeo

Important Dates

May 2023

May 2	Board of Trustees Meeting
May 6	Athletics End of the Year Celebration @ 11 a.m., Main Campus
May 11	Student Art & Music Open House, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Main Campus
May 16	EOPS/TRiO/CalWorks Celebration, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Herndon Campus
May 17	Early Childhood Education Ceremony, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Main Campus
May 17	Occupational Therapy Assistant Ceremony, at 6 p.m., Main Campus
May 18	Leon S. Peters Honors Program Ceremony, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., Main Campus
May 19	Last Day of Spring Semester
May 19	Commencement

Edited by: Bonnie Boonthavongkham

Photographs & Graphics by: Cindy Stafford, Mark Janzen, Jason Mendez

