

## **President's Newsletter**

September 2020 Volume 4 - Issue 5



# A Message from Dr. Bennett

Welcome to September! It's starting to feel like Fall. The mornings are a little cooler which makes getting some outdoor exercise more pleasant and it means we are back in the full swing of the semester. Classes are full, people are working hard, and online meetings are starting to feel normal. Given the current COVID-19 statistics, we've made the district decision to stay mainly online for the spring semester. I know this is disappointing for most of us, but it is the reality of how we keep our college family safe. The early decision will help us stay focused on providing the best online instruction and services possible. I am excited by the new and creative ideas that people are sharing to help us stay connected as a college – both with our students and with each other. Thank you again for being so caring and positive in your daily interactions. I am so thankful to be part of this amazing Crush family!

## **FALL 2020 Opening Day**

#### By Bonnie Boonthavongkham

Over 145 faculty, staff, and administrators attended our 1st Virtual Opening Day and it was a huge success. Our keynote speaker Lasana Hotep, kicked off the morning session with a presentation on Embracing the Paradigm Shift: Core Competencies for Equity Advancing Educators, followed by an Equity Audit breakout activity. Before leaving, Mr. Hotep thanked us for allowing him to be a part of our day and for coordinating the zoom and the breakout rooms successfully.



2021. We wrapped up the last hour by listening to valuable college-wide information and updates.

Thank you everyone for attending, engaging, and participating to make it one of the best Opening Day sessions yet!



## **Strategic Plan**

Clovis Community College follows a six-year planning and evaluation cycle. After updating the mission, vision, and values statements last year, this year's focus turns to strategic planning. Our 2017-2021 strategic plan includes six strategic goals that have guided our work for the last four years. Our annual summary report documents the progress made on each goal and action item. The summary document is presented to College Council each Fall. Our current strategic goals include:

- providing access
- improving teaching and learning
- supporting student services
- developing community partnerships
- expanding resources and facilities
- striving for excellence in institutional effectiveness

This Fall, we will spend time analyzing our completion and success data with a critical focus on student equity. In the spring, we will use this knowledge to develop our 2021-2025 strategic plan. Please watch for more information about opportunities to participate in these important discussions.

### **Student Enrollment Growth**

#### By Alex Adams and Bonnie Boonthavongkham

Each year, it is exciting to see the data of our student enrollment as it continues to climb higher and higher. The graph depicts an annual headcount or unduplicated student count showing a 9.4% growth increase from 18-19 to 19-20. If we grow by the same percentage next year, we are expected to reach well over 14,000 students for 20-21. Go Crush!



#### **CONGRATULATIONS TRIO!**

#### By Angelita Zargoza

Through a national, renewable five-year competitive grant competition from the Department of Education, Clovis Community College's TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Program has been awarded funding for not one but TWO SSS programs. More than \$500,000 in grant funding has been awarded to Student Support Services (SSS) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to continue operation through the 2020-2021 academic year.

Under the direction of Dean of Student Services Kira Tippins, the program management of Counselor Coordinator Angelita Zaragoza, and the support of Counselor Ashlee Hickey, SSS and STEM will continue to address social and cultural barriers and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit to transfer to a four-year institution and their attainment of a college degree.

The TRiO SSS and STEM Programs provide students free comprehensive services through academic assistance, academic skill and career development, personal and financial aid counseling, and opportunities designed to enhance the collegiate experience. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our students have lost jobs, loved ones, and at times, hope. However, they have never lost the support from our college. SSS and STEM have been able to guide students through the virtual transition and will continue to serve them holistically through the upcoming year and hopefully many, many more years to come.

A special thank you recognition to Rachel Moring and Angelita Zaragoza for their commitment and effort on writing the grant, and to the Grants and External Funding team for their guidance. THANK YOU!

Click here to learn more about CCC TRIO SSS & STEM.

## **Outcome & Assessment Goals for the Year**

#### By John Forbes

- 1. Monitor and document outcome efforts and results
  - a. SUOs. Find method for best collecting data from student meetings with counselors, etc. Advise SUs.
- 2. Provide guidance and feedback in writing, assessing, and analyzing outcomes:
  - a. Work on building up SharePoint site as place for resources for faculty / classified on writing and assessing outcomes.
  - b. Include guidance on measuring impact of online tools and achieving outcomes. Aligning tools with outcomes.
- 3. Advise and support college-wide assessment issues and opportunities
  - a. Create guidelines for faculty and classified on how to best collect data. Perhaps template for Canvas announcements or post-Zoom surveys. Build this on best practices for collecting online survey data (e.g. move away from extra credit, etc.).
- 4. Provide opportunities for broad participation in discussion related to outcomes and assessment:
  - a. Work with UP committee on creating guidance for writing plans with data collected from online courses. What does it mean? How can it still be meaningful in your UP plan?
  - b. Work on connecting solo faculty departments with cross discipline counterparts for discussion and help.
- 5. Encourage discussions of Equity and anti-racism in Outcomes and Assessment.

## Save the Date!!

## Lunch with Lori - September 29, October 20, and November 12, 2020 from 12-1pm

Bring your lunch and join us for a casual lunchtime break and conversation.



## **Technology Update**

#### By Teng Her

A big thank you to Dr. John Forbes for his leadership and guidance that he has provided to the Technology Services department. We wish him well in his new role as the Interim Chief Technology Officer. In the spring, Teng Her started as the Director of College Technology Services. Subsequently, Kham Boutthavong is filling in as the provisional Network Administrator, Howard Wu as the provisional Senior IT Customer Support Technician, and Nico Escobar as the provisional IT Customer Support Assistant Full-Time.

Through CARES funding, we have purchased additional laptops and hotspots. Our department is working closely with the Library and Outreach teams to make technology items available for checkout to our students. Checkouts are by reservation and appointment. Please visit the Library's <u>Technology Loan Program</u> page for more information.

Advanced email threat protection will be enabled this Fall as part of our new districtwide agreement with Microsoft. This additional protection will help safeguard our users against malicious threats received by emails, shared links, and attachments. This is separate from the email warning banner that is automatically placed at the top of emails that originate from senders outside of our system.

Technology Services is working on upgrading systems and infrastructure behind the scenes. These scheduled upgrades will improve performance and capacity as Clovis Community College continues to grow.

We are here and providing support remotely and can be reached by email at <a href="techhelp@cloviscollege.edu">techhelp@cloviscollege.edu</a> or telephone at (559) 325-5294, 8:00AM to 6:00PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00AM to 5:00PM Friday.

## Featured Department - Health Services

By Naomi Forey



Health Services and Psychological Services are integrated programs at Clovis Community College. Our mission is to improve the physical, mental, and social health of our students and to strengthen and inspire the well-being of the entire college community.

Wellness is essential to success. Mind, body, and spirit are intertwined – they cannot be separated. Strengthen one and they all strengthen. Neglect one and they all weaken. Our own data supports this. Clovis Community College students who have accessed campus health services have higher retention, success, and GPA rates than that of the general student population and within each measured ethic and economic sub-category. Students who have accessed Psychological Services also have higher retention and success rates than that of the general student population.

Increasing awareness of the importance of self-care (mind, body, and spirit) is what has helped us to effectively support student success. Because we only see a fraction of the student population, we hope that all who serve students at Clovis Community College will join us in promoting a culture of wellness on campus, in person or remotely. We can start by being good role models of self-care.

## **NEW!!! Monthly Committee Updates:**

#### **Accreditation Steering Committee**

#### By Jennifer Simonson

At its August meeting, the Accreditation Steering Committee discussed the following items:

- 2020-21 Goal #1: Collect evidence and guide and monitor progress on the Midterm Report, including reviewing drafts of the Report.
- 2020-21 Goal #2: Review Standards III.C: Technology Resources and III.D: Financial Resources in Fall 2020 and all of Standard IV: Leadership and Governance in Spring 2021.
- Midterm Report Timeline: Complete a full draft of the Midterm Report by May 2021 and begin constituency review of the Report in October 2021.

#### **Environmental Health & Safety and Facilities Committee**

#### By Lorrie Hopper

- Work continues on moving phones in classrooms to Instructor Work Stations. Work at Clovis Community College is almost complete. Then we will move on to Herndon Campus.
- Push Button doors have been installed in Tutorial Center and Testing Center. Waiting on parts to come in to make them functional.
- Bottles of sanitizer and masks were put in every office at Clovis Community College and Herndon Campus.

#### **Technology Advisory Committee**

#### By Brooke Ramos

- The Technology Advisory Committee is currently revising the 2020-2023 Technology Plan. This plan establishes technology guidelines for the college and contains visions and recommendations for the future. This plan also evaluates the current state of technology at the college.
- Revisions began in Spring 2020 and will be completed in time to present to College Council before the end of Fall 2020.
- Updates include new technology minimums and guidelines, and sections on Cybersecurity and Technology Use & Access during COVID-19.

### **Academic Senate**

#### By Cynthia Elliott

Over the summer, the executive committee met three times to discuss how to set up our semester meetings in accordance with The Brown Act. We also read applications and determined a winner for our \$250 scholarship to a student who "falls between the cracks." These students take their learning seriously but act independently of support from family, religious institutions, their jobs, and their communities. We determined that our three goals this semester are Equity, Access, Integrity, and Mental Health. We are concerned that students may not be supplied adequately with both hardware and software or strong WIFI signals. We worry that students will not ask for help or will fall back due to struggles with COVID-19, and we are looking at many ways to ensure academic integrity. We are scheduling meetings with district vice presidents to renew ARs and BPs with the faculty representatives of our sister colleges. We plan to make the best of a digital semester and to CRUSH Covid-19!

## **Associated Student Government**

#### By Patrick Stumpf

During the week of August 24th, the Associated Student Government participated in/organized Molly Week 2020 activities. This included assisting with the Good Vibes podcast which will debut on Friday, April 28th. The ASG is currently working on getting the Inter Club Council started, as well as planning events throughout the semester. Lastly, on Wednesday, August 19th, the ASG held their first Senate meeting. These are weekly meetings that are open to all students, staff, and faculty (see ASG webpage for Zoom link).

## **CCC** Accomplishments

Congratulations to Patrick Fontes, Omar Ruiz-Trejo, and Angelita Zaragoza! They will be joining nine other SCCCD individuals in a new cohort of leaders in the Central Valley Latino Leadership Academy.



**Patrick Fontes** 

"I hope to increase my skills as a mentor and leader to my students, and other young people in our community. One of my defining characteristics is connecting with youth, and in our region, there are thousands of young people who can benefit from strong mentors who possess ideas, wisdom and most of all, empathy."



**Omar Ruiz-Trejo** 

"I am looking forward to building strong community relationships with my colleagues in CVLL. I am looking forward to collaborate with people who are motivated to support and empower the Latino community in the Central Valley and beyond."



Angelita Zaragoza

"It is an honor to have been selected to the Central Valley Latino Leadership Academy's 2020 Virtual Cohort. I am excited to embark on the Latino Leadership journey. I look forward to learning about the strengths I bring to the table as a Latina and to understanding the inclusive, people-oriented, socially responsible, and life-affirming methods Latinos use to lead their communities. I hope to infuse new perspectives and learn strategies to enrich leadership evolution in an expanding multicultural society."

## **Congratulations to our Newly Tenured Faculty**

Stephanie Briones, Communication Instructor
Matthew Graff, Mechatronics Instructor
Daniel Gutierrez, Spanish Instructor
Shawon Jackson-Ybarra, Political Science Instructor
Phil Johnson, Art History Instructor
Scott Phillips, Geography Instructor
Orlando Ramirez, Soccer Coach/Kinesiology

Jaclyn Rowley, English Instructor Jared Rutledge, Biology Instructor Jamie Shepherd, Math Instructor Ravi Somayajulu, Math Instructor Von Torres, English Instructor Cindy Walker, Psychology instructor

Thank you to the Emergency Response Team, workgroups members, document writing team, and everyone who provided information to help formalize the college's Reopening Plan for the Fall. A special thank you to Sergio and his team for keeping our campus safe and clean.

## **New Employees & Promotions**



**CJ Albertson**Track Coach, Kinesiology



**Stephanie Coffman**Biology Instructor



**Dawn Hart**Art, 3D Instructor



Caryss Johnson
Senior Program
Specialist (Promotion)



Lawton Nichols
Computer Science
Instructor



Charlotte Samuels
Political Science
Instructor



**Jiajian Tin**Psych Intern



Christina Wells
Communication Instructor

## **Important Academic Dates**

#### September

September 1 Board of Trustees Meeting

September 7 Labor Day Holiday

September 11 Last Day to Change Class to Pass/No-Pass

#### October

October 6 Board of Trustees Meeting

October 9 Last Day to Drop Full-Term class with "W" October 12 Short-Term classes, second nine weeks



Edited by: Leslie King & Bonnie Boonthavongkham Photographs & Graphics by: Jason Mendez

## College-wide Town Hall Meetings and Weekly Update Letter:

During Fall semester, the Town Halls will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom information will be provided through the college email. President's Weekly Updates will be sent on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.











