



President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees



December 8, 2020

Dr. Nathaniel Jones III, President



CoA Cougar mascot greets guests to the College's 50th Anniversary Gala held on December 1, 2020, 7 p.m.

Over 170 Guests Attended CoA's Online 50th Anniversary Gala

The upbeat online celebration of CoA's 50th Anniversary took place on December 1, 2020, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and opened with a cheerful greeting from the College's Cougar mascot, thanks to **Joshua Sanders**, Student Athlete/Men's Basketball team member, who donned the official costume for the special occasion. CoA President **Dr. Nathaniel Jones III**, gave the official welcome. Over 170 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members attended the event. The gala program featured heartwarming student testimonials, and special guest presentations by Alameda Mayor **Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft**, Interim PCCD Chancellor **Dr. Carla Walter**, PCCD Trustee **Bill Withrow**, and Chief Executive Officer of Alameda Alliance for Health **Scott Coffin** among others. Thanks to generous donations by Gala Sponsors the **Alameda Alliance for Health, Alameda Rotary Club, NOLL & TAM Architects, Roebelen Contracting, Inc.**, and individual donors, the Gala raised over \$10,000 for CoA student scholarships and emergency grants. The CoA

The mission of the College of Alameda is to serve the educational needs of its community by providing comprehensive and flexible programs and resources to empower students to achieve their goals.

Bookstore donated raffle prizes, which were given away by CoA Director of ACCESO/Puente Programs **Horacio Corona Lira**. CoA Vice President of Instruction **Dr. Don Miller** and PCCD Foundation Executive Director **LaNiece Jones** co-hosted the live fundraising portions of the Gala. Additional presentations by CoA faculty, staff, and administrators included: Academic Senate President **Dr. Matthew Goldstein**, Classified Senate President **Kawanna Rollins**, Vice President of Instruction **Dr. Don Miller**, and Vice President of Student Services **Dr. Tina Vasconcellos**. In addition, guests were treated to a fashion show by Apparel Design and Merchandise Department (ADAM) students, ADAM Professor **O.J. Roundtree**, and ADAM Professor **Derek Piazza**; a dance performance by Dance Professor **Danny Nguyen** and students; and a music performance by Music Department Chair **Silvester Henderson**, Music Professor **Glen Pearson**, and CoA vocal students. One of the highlights of the evening featured the CoA FabLab's **Danny Beesley, Vincent Stevenson, Miguel Vega**, students, and community members, and their heroic efforts making PPE in recent months for frontline workers and those in need.

Special thanks go to the CoA 50th Anniversary Gala planning committee for their work on the event, including Associate Dean of Educational Success **Paula Armstead**, Director of Workforce Systems **Stefanie Bradshaw**, Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts **Lilia Celhay**, Director of HSI ACCESO/Puente Programs **Horacio Corona Lira**, Dean of Career and Workforce Education, Customized Training and Community Education **Eva Denise Jennings**, Vice President of Instruction **Dr. Don Miller**, Campus Senior Network and Systems Administrator **Bala Samparthraj**, Marketing/PIO Consultant **Cathy Summa-Wolfe**, Executive Assistant to the President **Teodora Washington**, and Staff Services Specialist **Shane Williams**. Video production was expertly done by Peralta TV staff members **Angel Hunter** and **Joe Sullivan**, under the direction of PCCD PIO Executive Director **Mark Johnson**. If you missed the Gala, you may view a recording online at <https://event.webinarjam.com/go/replay/1/186rvtyt4inik> .

Guided Pathways Meta Major Team Invites Participation

The College of Alameda's Guided Pathways Meta Major team held its second community group work meeting on Friday, October 30, 2020. The team, comprised of students, faculty, and the 2020-21 Guided Pathways lead team, engaged in a very productive "clustering" activity that proposed a grouping of the College's disciplines into a number of *Meta Majors with identified areas of commonality. The work of the Guided Pathways team is continuing throughout the academic year. Below are the future scheduled community group work meetings, highlighted with fun themes; all are invited to attend.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Theme</i>
<i>Feb 26, 2021</i>	12 Noon	Wear virtual or real hat
<i>Mar 26, 2021</i>	12 Noon	Wear something green
<i>Apr 23, 2021</i>	12 Noon	Earth Day (bring a plant to the meeting)



CoA College Council Unanimously Approves ISER

The College of Alameda’s College Council committee members reviewed and unanimously approved the College’s Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) at its regular monthly meeting on December 2, 2020. Committee members include: Co-Chair **Dr. Don Miller**, Co-Chair and Academic Senate President **Dr. Matthew Goldstein**, Classified Council President **Kawanna Rollins**, Acting VP of Instruction **Lilia Celhay**, VP of Student Services **Dr. Tina Vasconcellos**, Business Director **Chungwai Chum**, Director of College Research and Planning **Dominique Benavides**, Department Chair of Chairs **Vanson Nguyen**, Faculty members **Leslie Reiman**, **Drew Burgess**, and **Charles Washington**, and Classified staff members **Michael Duensing** and **Anna O’Neal**.

College Council advises CoA’s President and is charged with the responsibility to deliberate issues and concerns affecting the entire college community, particularly those involving budget, facilities, and safety; to develop and oversee the institutional plan of the college; and to engage in other planning efforts as required, such as strategic planning, and mission and goals statement.

UMOJA and Community Building Goes Virtual

The UMOJA Community at CoA is growing and evolving. This semester CoA UMOJA is offering three courses taught by three amazing professors, **Dr. Khalilah Beal-Uribe** (MATH 13), **Stefanie Ulrey** (ENGL 1A), and **Jody Campbell** (AFRAM 30).

Following the CoA chapter of the Peralta Association of African American Affairs and **Professor Carolyn Johnson's** lead, UMOJA adopted the [1619 Project](#) as a centering point in its classes this academic year. CoA faculty brainstormed and integrated one of two themes from [1619 Project's reading guide](#): “Capitalism” and “Undemocratic Democracy.”

This semester, each class participated in “Porch Talks” or community conversations pertaining to the selected 1619 Project themes. These Porch Talks are spaces where community convenes and conversations are ignited. The conversations are directed, guided, or organic. These communal brave spaces are places where students can share their truths, and where scholars can convey diverging ideas and build community. On September 28, 2020, students in Math 13 presented, Statistics vs. Rhetoric. The students investigated the persuasiveness of statistics and rhetoric by analyzing both the Netflix documentary titled [13th](#) and a *National Review* response article to the documentary. Presentations and discussions were focused on how statistics and rhetorical devices were used within the pieces.

The students in English 1A, focused their Porch Talk around the title, The Good Trouble, on October 13, 2020. In 1975, *Time Magazine* published an article titled “Saints Among Us.” In it, a number of leaders and activists were spotlighted as fulfilling a living definition of saint in the modern age. John Lewis was one of those who were named, and this idea is revisited in the introduction of his biography. John Lewis’ mantra was: “If you see something wrong, do something.” The class assignment was to create an original, working definition of saint. Students brainstormed a list of current events and figures in history who would embody the definition and selected one. They gave a brief biography of this person and what they were known for that would make them a saint by their definition.

On November 10, 2020, students in AFRAM 30, engaged in a critical analysis of the social status of Black people in America. The discussion was based on the premise that given the history, and our present challenges with police brutality, disproportionate poverty, health care discrimination, mass incarceration, and how the status and condition of Black people in America has truly changed since 1619.

In Spring 2021, UMOJA will offer the campus community a diverse selection of Porch Talks. Next semester they will continue weaving the 1619 Project into the curriculum of three course offerings: AFRAM 31, MATH 13, and ENGL 5. The UMOJA Community at CoA is dedicated to forging a pathway in the face of pandemic challenges, promoting student success, and creating relevant opportunities for student engagement learning.