

Volume 101 • November 4, 2021

Dr. Nathaniel Jones III, President

President's Corner: We're Making Good Progress! CoA Academic Senate Supports the Library Reserve Textbook Fund Kudos: Dean Eva Denise Jennings and Professor Dr. Didem Ekici Welcome New College Members Innovative HyFlex Coaching & Equitable Scheduling Retreat Held at CoA College of Alameda Launches a New Student-Centered Website Puente Students Enjoy Virtual Family Night Cougars Men's Basketball Team's First Home Game Is November 13 Covid-19 Testing on Campus ACCESO Workshops Make Your Splash!



CoA President Dr. Nathaniel Jones III

#### President's Corner: We're Making Good Progress!

I want to reiterate what I said at our Fall Flex on October 20, 2021– we are making good progress on several of our priorities for the year. Our success is due to the good work of all of you who have contributed to our continuing improvements in the important areas of Guided Pathways, Strategic Enrollment Management, Fiscal Stewardship, and Diversity. Your good work is especially appreciated as we continue to meet our goals even though our operations have been challenged by ongoing circumstances related to the pandemic. It is my sincere belief that we are moving in the right direction thanks to all of you who valiantly continue to persevere irrespective of these extraordinary challenges for the benefit of our students.

As you may already be aware, Interim Vice Chancellor of Human

Resources and PCCD SEIU Negotiator Dr. Ron McKinley recently provided the Peralta community with a status of the Return to Campus (RTC) notices for SEIU members. As a District, PCCD is planning to hold off on requiring SEIU classified professional staff members to return to campuses until negotiations with the union are concluded. As a result, CoA managers will not be following up on the RTC notices that were sent out recently. As you will recall, these notices specified a return date of November 9, 2021. I want to reiterate that you will not need to return to campus until such time as the College receives further direction from District HR.

In addition, future communications regarding Return to Campus decisions will be sure to include the following individuals:

- Immediate Supervisor (when needed)
- College of Alameda SEIU Stewards: Kawanna Rollins and Louie Martirez
- PCCD SEIU Officers and Regional SEIU Staff- Richard Thoele, Jamille Teer, and Gabriel Kessler

In closing, I want to acknowledge the fact that some of you have been coming to campus for the past year and a half to provide essential functions, while others have voluntarily come to campus to assist in student support and college wide operations. I heartedly, thank you! Further, I appreciate your commitment, as it has been critical to our ability to serve our students and community. I also want to thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work through the vicissitudes of the Return to Campus planning. Although the process may not have rolled out quickly, the end goal has always been for it to unfold thoughtfully, prioritizing community health and safety. I sincerely believe that by continuing to work together, we will have a sensible and safe Return to Work agreement.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Nathaniel Jones III College of Alameda President



## CoA Academic Senate Supports the Library Reserve Textbook Fund

On October 21, 2021, the College of Alameda Academic Senate voted to donate \$1,000 to the library reserve textbook fund. Established in Spring 2020, in honor of former Automotive Technology Instructor and past Academic Senate President **Ed Jaramillo because of his** steadfast support of College of Alameda. The donation honors Ed's memory while also helping students cope with the ever-increasing price of textbooks. Textbooks placed on reserve are made available to students on a short-term check-out basis, so that they may complete the necessary coursework without incurring the costs of course textbooks.

Submitted by Academic Senate Treasurer Andrew Park



#### **Kudos**

CoA's Dean of Career and Workforce Education, Customized Training, and Community Education **Eva Denise Jennings** has been appointed to the City of Alameda Mayor's Economic Development Advisory Panel (EDAP). The purpose of EDAP is to advise the Mayor, City Council members, and staff on key economic development issues and initiatives. The swearing-in ceremony was held on October 19, 2021. Dean Jennings has been with the College since 2016 and is also the President Elect for the California Community College Association for Occupational Education. **Congratulations Eva!** 



#### Kudos (continued)

English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Professor **Dr. Didem Ekici** co-authored a chapter of a new book titled Discourse and Con*flict: Analysing Text and Talk of Conflict, Hate and Peacebuilding,* recently published by Palgrave Macmillan (2021). The chapter, "Person to Person Peacebuilding through Intercultural Communication: Discourse Analysis of an Online Intercultural Service-Learning Project with Afghanistan," highlights person-toperson peacebuilding through intercultural communication. You can view the book that includes Dr. Ekici's chapter (Chapter 13) via Google Books . Congratulations Didem!



#### Welcome New College Members

ACCESO Adjunct Counselor **Claudia Ruelas** comes to College of Alameda with nine years' experience working in higher education. She was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and is proud of her first-generation heritage and being the first in her family earn a college degree. Ruelas started her education at De Anza College and was part of the Puente program there. After completing her Associate of Art Degree in Liberal Studies, Claudia transferred to San Jose State University where she earned both her

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Master's Degree in Counseling. Claudia is passionate about working with students and is a huge believer in student equity. She looks forward to supporting ACCESO students. Welcome to CoA Claudia!



Undocumented Student Success Coordinator **Juan Lopez** was born in Michoacán, México, and migrated to Hayward, California with their mother and nine month old sibling. Through the optimism and resilience instilled in them by their mother, Juan flourished and was inspired to help others. Juan is a proud CoA alum who transferred to the University of California (UC), Berkeley and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. At UC Berkeley, Juan was an active member of Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education (R.I.S.E.). In this role as CoA's Undocumented Student Success Coordinator, Juan will serve undocumented students and their families through mentorship, expansion of resources and services, and through

promoting the growth and excellence of undocumented students at CoA and beyond. Juan previously worked as a Legal Assistant at Legal Services for Children (LSC), where Juan was an advocate for immigrant youth. **Welcome to CoA Juan!** 



Photos from left: Student Jacob Ahmad provides feedback during retreat. Acting VPI facilitates HyFlex presentations.

#### Innovative HyFlex Coaching & Equitable Scheduling Retreat Held at CoA

Fifty-nine CoA faculty, classified professionals, students, and administrators gathered for the College's first hybrid flexible (HyFlex) event since the start of the pandemic. The event was held over two half day sessions on October 7 and 8, 2021. Titled *Just in Time Data Coaching and Equitable Scheduling Retreat*, the innovative event focused on data literacy, improving the scheduling process, and aligning planning with both institutional and district goals. Twenty participants attended in-person, adhering to the District's masking and social distancing Covid-19 safety guidelines, and 39 individuals joined virtually using Zoom.

This special event was timed to coincide with the last draft and fine tuning of the Spring 2022 Schedule and was organized by Acting Vice President of Instruction Dr. **Diana Bajrami**, Professional Development Committee Chair Professor **Maurice Jones**, and Office of Research and Planning Director **Dominique Benavides**.

The principles of equitable student access and success, and the College's work on Guided Pathways, informed the retreat's specific focus and design. Topics included: *Scheduling Challenges*; *Greetings from President Dr. Nathaniel Jones III, CoA Enrollment Model Presentation; Essentials of Scheduling–Course and Faculty Load; From the Enrollment Model to the Discipline Plan Applications; Data Coaching: Tools and Approaches to Equitable Scheduling; Budget Aspects of Scheduling; Student Voices – Learning Resources Center Tutors' Feedback*; and concluding with a breakout session for *Finalizing and Fine Tuning the Last Draft of Spring Schedule 2022.* 

Retreat participants included the Professional Development Committee, cluster chairs, discipline leads, instructional deans, faculty, classified professionals, and planning and research staff. One of the intended outcomes of the retreat was to prepare faculty and staff for effective participation in the College's upcoming Education Master Planning process, which will begin in Spring 2022.

#### **Retreat Highlights**

The first day of the retreat featured greetings by President Dr. **Nathaniel Jones III** and presentations by Acting VPI Dr. Bajrami, Director Benavides, and Professor M. Jones focusing on demystifying the budget allocation model, CoA's enrollment management model and its alignment with the new Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). Presentations were followed by a robust discussion about the return to in-person campus classes and services.

Learning Resources Center Coordinator Ms. **Anna O'Neal** and student tutors provided essential feedback regarding course and degree certificate offerings. Senior Academic Support Services Specialist Ms. **Min Wu** offered an in-depth training for all department chairs and discipline lead faculty members on every element of scheduling from course load to budget and from labs to non-instructional services. Curriculum and Assessment Specialist **Frank Nguyen** organized a fun and informative interactive game that illustrated how the assessment of learning is connected to the scheduling process.

On October 8, 2021, the presentations emphasized the importance of using data to guide CoA's scheduling of services and classes, with a vigorous focus on equity and the disproportionate impact of Covid 19 on African American, Latinx, Asian, and communities of color. This impact has been reflected in California community colleges enrollment and at College of Alameda. Acting VPI Bajrami and Director Benavides further engaged and encouraged faculty members to employ state-wide and College equity data in planning a Spring 2022 Semester that will mitigate known challenges faced by first-time students, African American, Latinx, Asian, and low-income students. Dr. **Beal Uribe** and Dr. Bajrami presented an in-depth overview about the application of the Enrollment Model to the discipline level using multiple data and student success rates. Learning Resource Center tutors **Seyer Sadat**, **Jacob Ahmed**, **Sahar Sadat**, **Quan Pham**, **Kai Crisby**, **Thai Doung** and **Tuan Le Pham** generated a hearty discussion and provided insightful recommendations on how the schedule and courses could be more student focused. Senior Supervisor of Business and Administrative Services Ms. **Ava Lee Pang** then gave a detailed presentation on the connection between the scheduling process and the budget.

The final breakout sessions were used to fine tune the spring 2022 class schedule using the data, student feedback, and budgetary guidelines presented during the course of the retreat. Those attending the breakout sessions in person convened in separate rooms grouped by department disciplines.

Acting VPI Dr. Bajrami was delighted to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback about the event and credits the positive contributions of the participants and presenters to the success of the retreat.

"The collaborative efforts of everyone in the College of Alameda family made this Office of Instruction event a great success!" said Dr. Bajrami.

The following are some of the representative comments received from faculty and staff survey respondents about their HyFlex retreat experience:

*"Awesome meeting! We should have similar training workshops for team collaboration on CoA accreditation and PCCD across four colleges for curriculum approvals."* 

"As an institution, we need to have more meetings like these."

"Organization and content were fantastic!"

"I enjoyed time with colleagues and students."

"It is a very good opportunity to meet and get to know more faculty and staff, along with a deeper understanding of our college."

" I greatly appreciated all addressed topics. I thought that the speakers were excellent."

Students also expressed their great appreciation for their participation in the retreat:

"The retreat provided an incredible opportunity for me to express my ideas and concerns regarding my role as a student and the impact the pandemic has had on my academic career. The most fantastic part of this retreat was getting to know the professors and faculty on a deeper level and hearing the things they have had to go through, as well as seeing how much they care about students' ability to succeed in college and in life, and how they're just people like everyone else. As I write this, I encourage anyone reading this to be more vocal with their professors, because they're definitely willing to go the extra mile for their students!" –**CoA Student Seyer Sadat** 

"As a student, the first day, I mostly was an observer because I didn't really know what was going to be discussed. I knew the overall topic of the session but not the details. So, I kept quiet and listened carefully to what was being said. The food was great, the atmosphere was inclusive and everyone was so nice! The second day I was more familiar with what things would be said. When it came to my portion, I was more comfortable with sharing my ideas. And of course, the food was great!" –CoA Student Jacob Ahmed

"I really thought that the retreat was insightful and a great experience because it allowed me as a student to be involved in the community and express my thoughts and concerns. I was able to see first-hand what was going on with the school and I was able to really connect with some of the teachers and it was great seeing how understanding they were. Overall, I am really thankful for this opportunity and glad I was able to come to the retreat." !" -CoA Student Sahar Sadat

Acting VPI Bajrami also praised the work of staff who provided essential support for the HyFlex event. "Executive Assistant to the Office of Instruction Mr. Louie Martirez y McFarland did an outstanding job of coordinating all aspects of the retreat and effectively moderating the event," said Bajrami. "Additionally, Information Technology (IT) Professionals Mr. Balamurali Sampathraj and Mr. Shawn Foster ensured that participants stayed connected both in person and virtually."



#### College of Alameda Launches a New Student-Centered Website

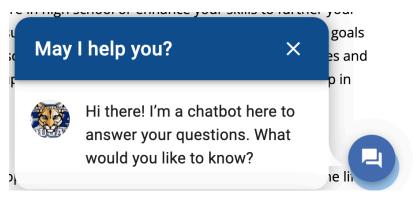
After almost a year of painstaking work, intensive collaboration, and vigorous testing, CoA launched its new website on October 11, 2021. The website development team included: Academic Senate President **Dr. Matthew Goldstein**, Classified Senate President **Kawanna S. Rollins**, Dean of Counseling and Special Programs **Dr. Shalamon Duke**, Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts Lilia Celhay, Website Coordinator Shane Williams, and Vice President of Student Services **Dr. Tina Vasconcellos**.

Prominently featured on the new home page are the College's fields of study, which serve as the navigational starting point for prospective students. The website also features a cutting-edge artificial intelligence chat function that is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. For those students who prefer interacting with people, the website also offers a live virtual chat option that will be staffed by Student Services employees during regular office hours.

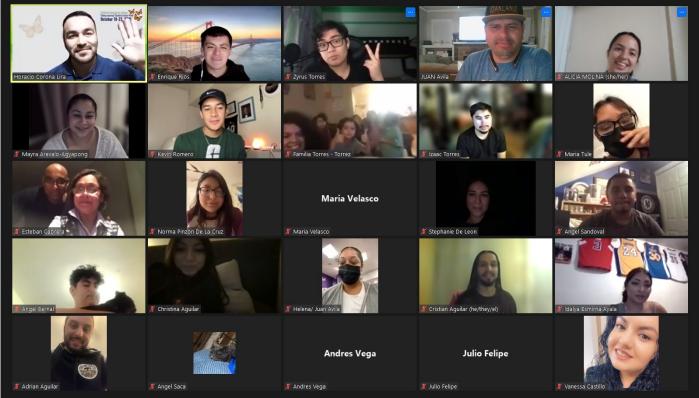
The website boasts a new and improved navigation system optimized for mobile friendly access and utilizing a new streamlined Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that is intended to be easier for end users to find and remember. In fact, student surveys showed that the **alameda.edu** URL seemed significantly more students/employee/community friendly than more cumbersome **alameda.peralta.edu**. In fact, 100 percent of all respondents felt that **alameda.peralta.edu** was not user friendly, compared to 100 percent of respondents indicating a preference for **alameda.edu**.

In order to improve website performance, the team also analyzed usage statistics and discovered that, while in 2009 only 0.7 percent of internet traffic was generated from mobile phones, by 2020 over 50 percent of website visitors accessed information using their mobile devices. Surveys also showed that 80 percent of our students used Apple iPhones to access the website. Additionally, analytics showed that over 60 percent of all users preferred Google Chrome to other browsers.

Other upgrades include improved readability, better accessibility, 508 compliance, updated alternative text (also known ALT tags), and the addition of assistive technology. (Note: ALT tags contain the alternative text for an image or a visual on a web page for visually impaired users who use screen readers when browsing.)



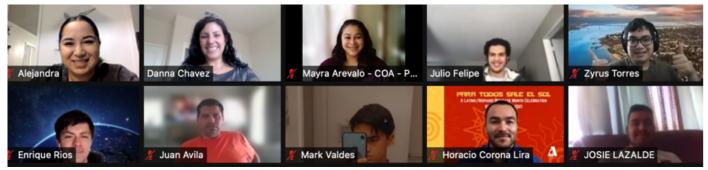
The website is currently in a soft launch phase in order to work out bugs and to provide the college community an opportunity to submit their comments and suggestions regarding both the content and design elements. On October 11, 2021, all currently enrolled CoA students received a link to the new website in an email and were asked to review the site and complete an online survey, the results of which will be used to fine tune the website prior to the public launch in January 2022.



CoA Puente students and family members attend the virtual Puente Noche de Familia (Puente Family Night)

### Puente Students Enjoy Virtual Family Night

Puente Noche de Familia (Puente Family Night) is a special annual event that celebrates the families and friends of CoA's Puente students. This year over 35 Puente students, friends, and family members celebrated together virtually on Zoom. The evening offered participants a variety of engaging activities, including important transfer information and special appreciation for those important individuals who help our Puente students stay focused on their education and achieve their goals.



CoA Puente Students Attend the Transfer Motivational Conference

October was a busy month for CoA Puente students who also attended a special one-day Transfer Motivational Conference hosted by the University of California, Berkeley, where they learned more about university campuses and met leaders in various fields. Students learned how to navigate the university admissions process and were inspired by motivational speakers, including keynote speaker and Author **Gabby Rivera** who wrote *Juliet Takes a Breath*, and is the first Latinx writer for the Marvel Comics *America* series, which features the first queer Latinx teen-girl superhero in the history of comics.

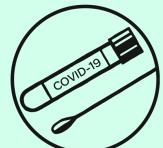
Submitted by Hispanic Serving Institution Grant, ACCESO, and Puente Program Director Horacio Corona Lira.

202	<u>21-2022</u>	<u>COU</u> G	AR MEN'S BASKETBAL	L SCHEDULE
DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
	1	1	NON-CONFERENCE	
Nov 5	Fri	7:00 pm	**Foothill College	Los Altos Hills, CA
Nov 10	Wed	5:00 pm	**Cosumnes River College	Sacramento, CA
Nov 13	Sat	3:00 pm	**Columbia College	Alameda, CA
Nov 19	Fri	5:00 pm	**Skyline College	Alameda, CA
Nov 22	Mon	7:00 pm	**Diablo Valley College	Alameda, CA
Nov 30	Tues	6:00 pm	** Folsom Lake College	Folsom, CA
Dec 8	Wed	5:00 pm	**Cabrillo College	Aptos, CA
Dec 10	Fri	6:00 pm	**Gavilan College	Gilroy, CA
Dec 11	Sat	3:00 pm	**West Valley College	Alameda, CA
Dec 15	Wed	6:00 pm	**American River College	Alameda, CA
Dec 17	Fri	7:00 pm	**Monterey Peninsula College	Monterey, CA
Dec 22	Wed	5:00 pm	**City College of San Francisco	Alameda, CA
			CONFERENCE	
Dec 28	Tue	3:00 pm	Yuba College	Alameda, CA
Dec 30	Thu	3:00 pm	Solano College	Alameda, CA
Jan 4	Tue	7:30 pm	Contra Costa College	San Pablo, CA
Jan 6	Thu	7:30 pm	Los Medanos College	Alameda, CA
Jan 8	Sat	7:30 pm	Napa Valley College	Napa, CA
Jan 11	Tues	-	BYE	-
Jan 13	Thurs	7:30 pm	College of Marin	Alameda, CA
Jan 15	Sat	7:30 pm	Mendocino College	Ukiah, CA
Jan 19	Wed	7:30 pm	Merritt College	Alameda, CA
Jan 21	Fri	7:30 pm	Yuba College	Marysville, CA
Jan 26	Wed	7:30 pm	Solano College	Fairfield, CA
Jan 28	Fri	7:30 pm	Contra Costa College	Alameda, CA
Feb 2	Wed	7:30 pm	Los Medanos College	Pittsburg, CA
Feb 4	Fri	7:30 pm	Napa Valley College	Alameda, CA
Feb 9	Wed	-	BYE	-
Feb 11	Fri	7:30 pm	College of Marin	Kentfield, CA
Feb 16	Wed	7:30 pm	Mendocino College	Alameda, CA
Feb 18	Fri	7:30 pm	Merritt College	Oakland, CA
		A	Head Coach: Ravi Bhambhra sistant Coaches: Stefan Maksimovic thletic Director: Ramaundo Vaughn President: Dr. Nathaniel Jones of Enrollment Services: Dr. Amy H. Lee Mascot: Cougar, Color: Royal Blue Home Games in Blue	
		http://www.al	**Non-Conference Games ameda.peralta.edu/Athletics/mens-bask	othall

#### Cougars Men's Basketball Team's First Home Game Is November 13

For an up to date basketball schedule go to: http://www.alameda.peralta.edu/Athletics/mens-basketball

# COVID Testing @ College of Alameda



Tuesdays 8:00am - 12:00pm Room: A232 Register at: https://vbscovidsm.com/ Photo ID Required

PCCD COVID Testing Schedule: 8:00am-12:00pm Mondays @ Laney Tuesdays @ Alameda Wednesday @ Merritt Thursdays @ Berkeley Fridays @ Peralta District Office

OLLEGE OF Alameda

> 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. Page 11

NOVEMBER 2021



Adelante con Comunidad, Excelencia, Sabiduría y Oportunidad

College of Alameda



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.

NOVEMBER 2021



Adelante con Comunidad, Excelencia, Sabiduría y Oportunidad

College of Alameda



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COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

Free Produce Market

Free bi-weekly outdoor food market for students and members of the community! Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month starting Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at the entrance of campus through Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway.

## 2nd & 4th Tuesday | 12:30PM to 2PM | CoA Circle

555 Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway, Alameda, CA. 94501 Questions? Contact Natalie Rodriguez, nrodriguez@peralta.edu

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Page 14



### Make Your Splash!

- Student success stories.
- Grant updates, applications, special projects, or programs of interest.
- Program, committee, department news, and updates.
- Faculty and staff awards, appointments, achievements, or kudos.
- Special hours and information for online or other services and classes.
- Upcoming deadlines that students or colleagues should know about.
- Event information.
- Other news.

Send us your news, so that we may share it with the campus and the community in the next edition of Splash! It's easy –just send us a short article and a good photo or two, and we will take care of the rest. Do not forget to include the name of the writer, the photographer, and anyone who is pictured (if possible).

Please email your news and information to: coasplash@peralta.edu and be sure to include the word "Splash" in the subject line.

Past issues of the CoA Splash are available at https://alameda.peralta.edu/newsletter/coa-splash/