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- Make Your Splash!



College of Alameda
Acting President
Dr. Diana Bajrami

President's Corner: We're Halfway Through Fall Semester

It seems like this fall has been flying by and we are now halfway through the semester. Final exams start in just eight weeks on December 11, 2022, and then the holiday season will be upon us. Please remind your students that the College is offering an extensive three-week Fall 2022 Intersession that begins on December 19, 2022. Our Intersession programs offer students outstanding opportunities to earn full-term, course credit in just a few weeks so that they may complete their degree, transfer, or certificate requirements in less time. Click here for the full course listings: <https://alameda.edu/winter-intersession/fall-2022-intersession-2/>.

It has been an exciting and busy semester so far with much to celebrate. In this edition of *Splash* you may read about some of our recent events. Congratulations to our Faculty POCR team members who worked hard to secure our recent certification: **Brielle Erike, Jennifer Fowler, and Rich Kaeser**. Congratulations also to ADAM Department Chair **Derek Piazza**, his faculty, and his students for their recent feature in a regional design showcase hosted by the [Fibershed Learning Center](#). Thank you all for your continuing excellent work on behalf of our students!

Warmly,
Dr. Diana Bajrami
College of Alameda Acting President



CoA Named Certified POCR Campus

College of Alameda (CoA) has been awarded status as a Certified Peer Online Course Review (POCR) Campus by the California Virtual Campus (CVC). This honor is the result of extensive training and hard work by CoA's POCR team. Faculty POCR team members that worked to secure certification were: **Brielle Erike, Jennifer Fowler, and Rich Kaeser.**

As a Certified POCR Campus, trained faculty mentors at College of Alameda can review and align courses to the CVC Online Course Design Rubric, then fast-track these courses through the CVC review process. Once alignment is verified, courses receive a "Quality Reviewed" badge and rise to the top of the search results on the CVC Exchange where students can search for online courses across the entire California Community College system.

Peer Online Course Review Coordinator Jennifer Fowler expressed enthusiasm about College of Alameda's continued advances in distance education.

"This certification represents yet another step forward in College of Alameda's commitment to quality online course design and student success," said Fowler.

CoA's current Distance Education Coordinator Rich Kaeser, pointed out how aligning his MATH 13 Introductory Statistics course to the rubric benefits faculty and students.

"Going through POCR was a great experience. I now feel confident that my students feel welcome in my online courses, and can easily navigate through the material," said Kaeser.

More opportunities to learn about online course design and for faculty to participate in POCR are forthcoming. Faculty interested in the POCR process can email Jennifer Fowler directly at jfowler@peralta.edu.

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



Left: College of Alameda ADAM student Chi Do with samples at the indigo workshop; Right: Chi modeling her completed outfit, which was displayed in the Student Designer Showcase at Fibershed's 'Rooted in Simplicity' event on September 17. (Left photo by H

ADAM Program Students Featured in 2022 Designer Showcase

CoA ADAM Program students were featured in the 2022 Designer Showcase at Fibershed's [Rooted in Simplicity](#) event, on September 17, 2022, at the Fibershed Learning Center in Point Reyes, California.

ADAM students **Chi Do** and **Lina Egutkina** participated in an innovative workshop that focused on making indigo dye vats at the Fibershed Learning Center in June 2022. They used the skills that they learned at the workshop to produce the original designs that were featured in the Designer Showcase. They were worked with Climate Beneficial fabrics such as Sally Fox's French terry with color-grown organic cotton, ribbed knit with California-grown cotton, and a beautiful twill fabric that was woven using undyed, California Rambouillet wool.

Fibershed is a non-profit organization whose [mission](#) is to develop regional fiber systems that build ecosystem and community health. Fibershed is collaborating with design schools in Northern California, like CoA's Apparel Design and Merchandising (ADAM) Program, to help influence the future of fashion in a more sustainable direction. An article about the collaboration was published on Fibershed's website, featuring an in-depth interview with CoA's ADAM Department Chair **Derek Piazza** (click [here](#) to access the full article).

When asked how the collaboration is helping ADAM students, Piazza responded that "collaborations with Fibershed are invaluable to our students. For ADAM Industry Talks, Rebecca Burgess speaks to our fashion students about the impact of the fashion industry on the earth current changes that continue to be made with local farmers, weavers, and dyers, and how those changes are positively influencing the fashion industry." He added: "Our previous collaborations have included Fibershed workshops on natural dyeing and mending clothing, which allowed students to take those learned skills and incorporate them into their collections."

According to Fibershed's philosophy and mission, in order to realize a more sustainable fashion future, tomorrow's fashion designers must understand how the whole life cycles of the apparel they create impact people and the environment. For more information about Fibershed and to read the article click [here](#).

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DiversAbility Event Explores Inclusion for People with Disabilities

On Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the College to Career (C2C) Program hosted a college-wide DiversAbility Event, which was sponsored by Student Life and Activities and Student Equity and Achievement funds. Under the leadership of C2C Coordinator/Counselor **Jennifer Sanoh**, DiversAbility promoted an atmosphere where individuals could feel comfortable discussing and exploring questions about accessibility, equality, and inclusion for people with disabilities. The event was open to CoA faculty, staff and students. Musical entertainment was provided and catered breakfast as well as lunch options were served.

During the day, DiversAbility participants had the opportunity to choose among various sessions related to disability, accessibility, and inclusivity. Topics included: Inclusive Disability Employment; Promoting Self-Advocacy for College Students with Disabilities; Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) Basics; and Informational Session for Prospective College to Career (C2C) Applicants.

Sessions lasted 50 minutes. At the beginning of each session, participants were presented with background information and questions. Next, following a structured process of brainstorming and information exchange, participants discussed related barriers and solutions.

Participants also “took over” the grassy quad behind the F-building to engage in hands-on activities of tie-dyeing tee-shirts and tote bags. The tie-dye event was very popular, attracting high turnout rates.

The term “DiversAbility” embraces the uniqueness and potential in every human being. DiversAbilities refer to physical, cognitive, developmental, learning, and/or neurological differences, or diversity, in ability levels. People experiencing medical conditions, genetic anomalies, physical and emotional trauma, social and emotional challenges, as well as differences in brain biology comprise the largest population of marginalized people in our world.

CoA support for the College to Career (C2C) programming has helped continue and expand C2C’s mission to provide the community, resources, and education that students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and/or Autism need to be successful.

Submitted by C2C Coordinator/Counselor Jennifer Sanoh



Welcome Acting Vice President of Instruction Maurice Jones

After an in-depth review and consideration, Professor **Maurice Jones** has been appointed as the Acting Vice-President of Instruction at College of Alameda in accordance with the [AP 7123](#). Professor Jones has been an esteemed member of the Peralta District and the College of Alameda communities for over 25 years having served in several faculty, Peralta Federation of Teachers (PFT), and administration leadership roles. He has served as Dean of the Liberal Arts Division at the College for nine years. At one time, during a period of budgetary cuts, he was the only dean and provided leadership for all three divisions at the College simultaneously. In addition, Professor Jones has previously served as Academic Senate President, PFT representative, and cluster chair. He is a champion for equity, inclusion, diversity, and accessibility; and he has national and international experiences in this regard.



Alejandro Gonzalez Has Joined the CoA ACCESO and Puente Teams

Alejandro Gonzalez will serve as the College's new ACCESO/Puente student services specialist. Alejandro is originally from Los Angeles California, specifically, South Central Los Angeles. He received an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from East Los Angeles College and transferred to the University of California at Berkeley, where he double majored in Chicana/Chicano Studies and Sociology. Alejandro comes to College of Alameda with nearly ten years of experience working in higher education, including five years with UC Berkeley's Academic Achievement Programs ([TRIO Programs](#)) and nearly five years with Peralta Community College District (PCCD), working at Berkeley City College and most recently at Laney College.



Introducing Our New Mental Health Counseling Interns

Every year we have an incredible new group of mental health counseling interns. Please join me in welcoming our 2022-2023 cohort: **Erica Gibbons, Jay Conui, Rey Vargas, and Jasmine Sharma** on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, from 11 a.m. to noon, in the Student Center F-building. We are hosting a

meet and greet in order for the campus community to have an opportunity to connect with the new mental health staff, as well as an opportunity for us to hear from you. See the attached flyer for more details.

Submitted by Health Services Coordinator Lisa Sawadogo, LPCC357, NCC



The Associated Students of College of Alameda has a full roster of Senators this fall!

The Associated Students of College of Alameda (ASCOA) Has a Full Slate of Enthusiastic Senators and Volunteers this Fall

The pandemic and initial post-pandemic periods posed challenges for re-engaging students in college life activities such as student government and committee work. This fall CoA students are back full-force in leadership roles and looking forward to a semester of participatory governance and other activities.

The College is proud and pleased to introduce the newest ASCOA members and volunteers, including:

- ASCOA President **Natay Myers**, serving on the Institutional Effectiveness Committee;
- Vice President of ASCOA Operations **Semeon Thomson**, serving on the Student Equity and Achievement Committee;
- Vice President of Programing **Karen Torrez**, serving Health and Safety Committee;
- Treasurer **Guilherme Pacheco Santos**, serving on the Budget Committee;
- Senator **Demarquis (Marcus) Sillemmon**, serving on the Educational Master Plan Committee;
- Senator **Ouahiba Khourchech**, serving on the Facilities and Technology Committee), and
- **Junhao (Jay) Ma**, who is volunteering to serve on College Council.

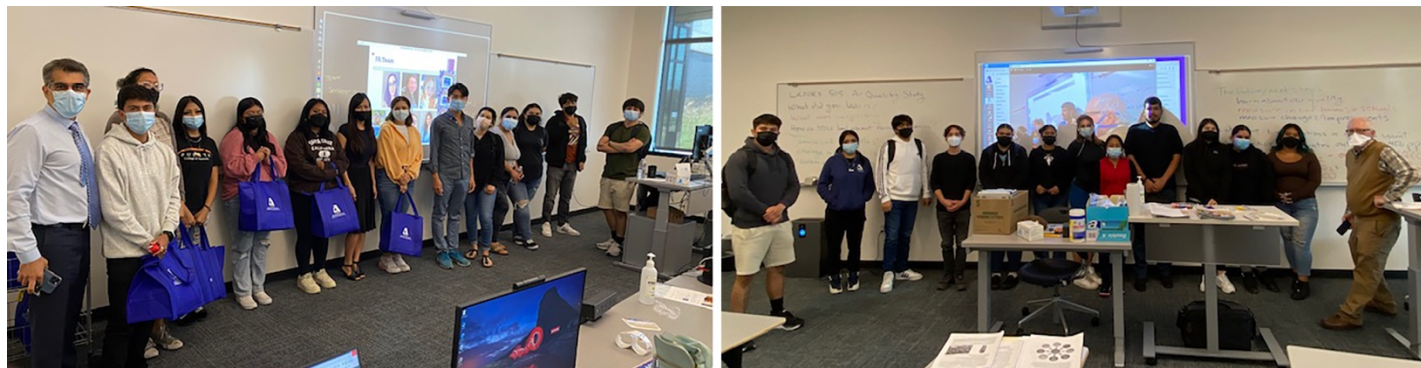


Photo left: MESA Connect students at orientation. Photo right: MESA Connect students first day of Fall 2022 Semester classes.

MESA Connect Project Welcomes Its First Cohort

In October 2019, CoA received a United States Department of Education Title V Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Grant becoming PCCD's first HSI college. In Fall Semester 2021, College of Alameda's MESA Connect Project received additional grant funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to improve academic outcomes for LatinX students enrolled at HSIs.

The NSF grant supports projects, like CoA's MESA Connect, that are designed to increase recruitment, persistence, graduation, and transfer rates for Latinx STEM students through cohort-based learning enriched by culturally informed Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs). Intended outcomes include: broadening participation of students that are historically underrepresented in STEM, expanding students' pathways to continued STEM education, and integration into the STEM workforce.

With the support of administrators, faculty, and classified professionals, CoA's MESA Connect team held its first student orientation on August 15, 2022. A wide variety of services and workshops were offered at the orientation, including admissions assistance, counseling services, and financial aid information, followed by a campus tour. The cohort started classes on September 13, 2022, and were enrolled in Transition into Community College (LRNRE 505) and College Success (COUN 024).

The NSF grant will fund the College's MESA Connect team for two years. MESA Connect is a collaboration between CoA and California State University, East Bay (CSUEB).



CoA All Peer Mentor Training Held in September

On Friday, September 16, 2022, College of Alameda's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Learning Resource Center (LRC), and ACCESO Program, hosted a full-day training for all peer mentors at College of Alameda. Nearly 20 peer mentors from EOPS, ACCESO, and the LRC participated in

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this training. Students learned about the peer mentor role, including effective mentoring, boundaries, and success strategies to share with their mentees. Additionally, peer mentors were joined by **Sandra Arias**, academic success counselor with the Educational Opportunity Program at University of California, Berkeley, who presented a workshop on strategies for building meaningful relationship with mentees. Moreover, Financial Aid Officer **Jackie Vo** provided a training on completing the FAFSA/Dream Act, resolving Financial Aid issues, and SAP appeals.

Peer mentors heard from CoA Health Services Intern **Reynaldo Vargas**, who presented a workshop on the importance of mental health and wellness, what to look for when working with mentees, and mental health resources and services available to CoA students.

The peer mentor component in each respective program (LRC, EOPS, and ACCESO) is intended to support student retention, persistence, and academic success.

Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Grant, ACCESO/Puente Programs Horacio Corona Lira



Photos from left: Director of Workforce Systems Stefanie Bradshaw, CoA Career Coach consultant Kimari Williams, and Conference participant Charles Eddy. Kimari Williams and current CoA Student Ayshah Brown, who also attended the conference.

Career Center Staff Participate in CSUEB Project Rebound Event

Director of Workforce Systems **Stefanie Bradshaw** and Career Coach consultant **Kimari Williams** attended the Project Rebound event in September at the California State University East Bay (CSUEB) campus in Hayward, California.

CSUEB is launching their [Project Rebound](#) program, a special admissions and support program for formerly incarcerated students. Founded in 1967, Project Rebound has helped hundreds of students earn California State University degrees, while working to promote restorative justice, reduce recidivism, and empower individuals through higher education. Currently, 14 CSU campuses have Project Rebound programs working with formerly incarcerated students.

Career Center staff had an opportunity to connect with other area organizations and advocacy groups that support re-entry. They received the tools to create/enhance the employment services that the College offers to include the Justice Impacted community. These tools include: new professional organization contacts, funding opportunities, and potential partnerships.

Director Bradshaw stated that “through these new connections and relationships and by leveraging the county Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant funding that the career center currently receives, I feel confident that we can build a thriving Justice Impacted/Re-Entry program at CoA.”

Submitted by Director of Workforce Systems Stefanie Bradshaw



Tasty Tuesdays Will Provide Free Meals, Resources, and Activities this Fall

The College’s Tasty Tuesdays program will connect CoA students to free lunch, resources, and educational activities on campus—including the Free Produce Market, special cultural events, and Cougar Closet.

Tasty Tuesdays will be held every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The first free lunch was offered in partnership with Latinx Heritage Month activities.

Food for Tasty Tuesdays is made possible by CoA’s Basic Needs funds.



COA Career & Employment Center

Host the

October Job Fair



College of Alameda
Building H (New Bldg)



Friday,
October 28, 2022



4-6pm

Register Here



Directions to College of Alameda Parking Lot C:

Coming from the Webster Tube (tunnel), make a right on Willie Stargell Ave, make a left on East Campus Drive, Parking Lot C will be on your right.

Parking:

Parking Lot C is closest to Building H. The entrance to Parking Lot C is located at the back of the campus on Willie Stargell Ave. Parking is **FREE**.



Employers:

- BART
- FedEx
- Amazon
- Alameda Police Department
- Alameda Unified School District
- Oakland Unified School District
- Carefield Castro Valley
- Peralta Community College District
- Allied Universal
- Oakland Zoo
- United Airlines
- GSC Logistics
- Marina Security
- E-Waste Solutions
- KJ's Barber Shop
-and More

Partners:



Contact:

Stefanie Bradshaw
Director of Workforce Systems
College of Alameda

sbradshaw@peralta.edu

Fall 22'

LGBTQIA GROUP THERAPY

**Real group therapy led by a
Queer Associate Marriage
Family Therapist of Color**

Free and open to all Peralta
Students
(BCC, Merritt, COA, & Laney)

A confidential mental health
counseling space, alongside
peers in your community

Groups meet (via zoom)
every other Tuesday
12pm - 1pm
Starting
October 25th, 2022

**Interested in joining?
[please fill out this form](#)**

Questions? Email Erica:
egibbons@peralta.edu





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.edu/office-of-the-president/>