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College of Alameda  
Acting President  
Dr. Diana Bajrami

## President's Corner: There's Much to Be Thankful For

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, it is an opportune moment to reflect on gratitude. I want to take a moment to offer my thanks to our extended CoA family – students, faculty, classified professionals and administrators – for your energy, enthusiasm and collaboration, which has contributed so much to the College's successes. It is an honor to work with such a committed group of talented individuals as we envision new ways to keep CoA moving forward. Your spirit of dedication to excellence is truly inspiring. Together, even while overcoming significant challenges, institutional changes, and various other obstacles, we have made significant strides since COVID-19 first hit. Thanks to your good work and excellent support, our students are flourishing and moving closer to achieving their life goals.

In an effort to make college education accessible and achievable by more students, College of Alameda, and the other Peralta colleges, will be offering free classes for all qualified students for Spring 2023 Semester. Moreover, College of Alameda is offering an extra bonus for all CoA majors enrolling in at least six units a \$500 on Us grant to help them get a step closer to certificate/degree completion. Please share this information with all of your students so that they may take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity and perhaps also share the information with their friends and family too! For more information go to: <https://alameda.edu/FreeSpringPlus500OnUs/>.

Warmly,  
Dr. Diana Bajrami  
College of Alameda Acting President



*Dance Professor Danny Nguyen and his students recently performed at the 56th Raising of the United Nations Flag and Parade in Oakland.*

## Dance Professor Danny Nguyen and Students Perform at the 56th Raising of the United Nations Flag at Jack London Square

Award-winning Dance Professor **Danny Nguyen** and his students were invited to perform at the 56th Raising of the United Nations Flag and Parade of 193 Member State Flags, held on October 8, 2022, at Jack London Square (JLS), in Oakland.

The Chair of the Oakland United Nations (UN) Flag Raising, Dr. **Veronica Ufoegbune**, expressed her appreciation in a written communication and invited the Professor Nguyen and his group to perform again next year. “Please know that we at the UN Flag Raising Annual Ceremony deeply appreciate you and the College of Alameda for the commitment to the Unity of the people of the world... You and your class are indeed Honorary UN Flag Raising Ambassadors!”, wrote Ufoegbune. “I hope that you accept our invitation to present in October 2023!”



Professor Nguyen and students also received a Certificate of Acknowledgement designating them as honorary ambassadors. Nguyen’s talents are well-known and highly lauded around the greater Bay Area. He is the recipient of many awards, including the City of San Francisco Distinguished Artist Award (2014), Asian Week Foundation Award (2012), Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay (2007), City of Alameda Shining Stars Award (2006), and over a dozen more.





*Families lining up to tour the inside of a WWII commemorative B-17 bomber aircraft*

## College of Alameda Aviation Outreach at Hayward Executive Airport

CoA Aviation Maintenance Training (AMT) program was invited to participate in Hayward Executive Airport's *Open House Salute to Veterans & First Responders* on September 11<sup>th</sup>. AMT facility supervisor **Esther Cheng**, along with 14 student volunteers of the aviation maintenance program participated in this special day for the outreach opportunity.

Students were excited to share their AMT experiences with all who were interested. In addition, student volunteers took turns walking around the event with a large aviation flag answering questions and directing individuals to our booth so that Esther could provide more details about the College.

Following a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the event had a great turnout, with about 2000 visitors. There were several airplanes and helicopters in various shapes, sizes, and styles on display, and even first responder tactical vehicles to climb on. And the most monumental spectacles were the B-17 and B-25 bomber aircrafts. Two of our students were given a free flight ride on a Cessna around the Bay. A few CoA AMT alumni, who are now working in the industry, stopped by to share their work experiences with our current students. All attendees seemed to feel great enthusiasm and excitement for this interactive, informational, and fun filled event.



*CoA AMT students walking in the event promoting the AMT AA /AS Degree Program.*



*CoA AMT students demonstrating sheet metal riveting to Navy League Cadet Corp students*



*Photo from left: Latoya Reed, Javier Contreas, Stefanie Bradshaw, David Dias, & Charles Turner*

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## CoA Career and Employment Center Staff Invited to Participate in a County Panel Discussion Focusing on Hiring Homeless

On Wednesday, October 19, 2022, Director of Workforce Systems **Stefanie Bradshaw** served as a panelist for the Alameda County Workforce Development Board's panel discussion titled "Expand Your Talent Pool- Job Seekers Experiencing Homelessness."

The event was designed to help employers better understand tax benefits and credits that come with hiring the unhoused population. The panel was comprised of local employment service providers, including the CoA Career and Employment Center, local non-profits, and members of the community who have experienced homelessness.

College of Alameda was the only community college invited by Alameda County to participate in the county-wide panel and discuss its best practices for supporting homeless community members. Bradshaw also invited a former client, **Eugene Rosebud**, to join on the panel. Rosebud spoke about his unique experience with homelessness, which included finding himself homeless upon re-entering society after a 20-year incarceration.

Bradshaw first met Eugene in 2020 when she ramped up efforts to serve vulnerable members of our community. During the pandemic, she partnered with local non-profits that serve the re-entry/formerly incarcerated population. The CoA Career Center provided services for Rosebud, including job placement and using CARES Act funding to help secure his first apartment home in 20 years.





CoA COLEGAS Participants included President Diana Bajrami, Director Dominique Benavides, Dean Lilia Celhay, ACCESO Counselor Alejandra Duran, ACCESO Specialist Alejandro Gonzalez, and Director Horacio Corona Lira.

## CoA Team Attends Inaugural State-Wide COLEGAS Conference

CoA staff, faculty, and administrators attended the inaugural [California Community Colleges Organización de Latinx Empowerment, Guidance, Advocacy for Success \(COLEGAS\)](#) Conference: *Pa'delante Juntos Podemos* held on November 2, 2022, through November 4, 2022, in Long Beach, California. The mission of COLEGAS is to elevate authentic Latina/o/x leadership to accelerate, change, and advance equity for Latina/o/x professionals and students. Participants included: Acting President **Diana Bajrami**, Director of College Research and Planning **Dominique Benavides**, Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts **Lilia Celhay**, ACCESO Counselor **Alejandra Duran**, ACCESO Specialist **Alejandro Gonzalez**, and Hispanic Serving Institution Grant ACCESO/Puente Programs Director **Horacio Corona Lira**.

At the conference, the CoA team heard from California Community College leaders, higher education scholars, practitioners, and artists. The conference tracks focused on topics of equity and inclusion, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Latinx affirming practices and policies. Additionally, Learning Resource Center Faculty Coordinator **Johanna Carranza**, Director Benavides, and Director Corona Lira presented on CoA's Puente Summer Bridge pilot program. This presentation highlighted the implementation of a summer bridge program in CoA's Puente Project to enhance student retention, academic success, and sense of community.

CoA's Puente Summer Bridge is a four-week non-credit course taught in collaboration with CoA's Learning Resource Center. The Puente Summer Bridge program's development was informed by student surveys, student interviews, and data analysis, which determined a need for stronger retention and inclusion efforts.



## Guatemalan Artisan Maricela Aguilar Provides Free Weaving Workshop

Celebrations in honor of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month continued at College of Alameda (CoA) with a Guatemalan textile weaving workshop on Tuesday, September 27. CoA's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month planning committee invited Guatemalan Artisan **Maricela Aguilar** to demonstrate traditional Guatemalan hand weaving techniques. This unique cultural event was filled with

learning, joy, and appreciation for our Guatemalan-American community.



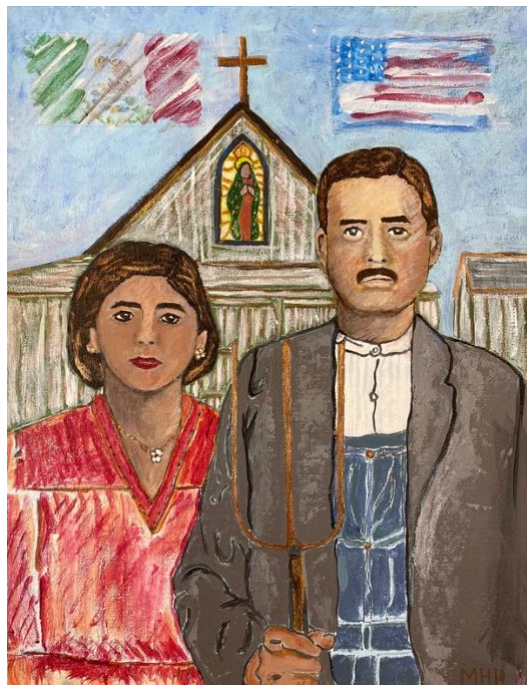
*From Left: CoA Art student Mary Hall Patrone at work, 11x14 Acrylic "Sundial", and Self Portrait*

## Art Department Celebrates Student Artist

The College of Alameda Art Department celebrates student **Mary Hall Patrone**. Mary returned to school in 2008 in the ADAM program. She successfully completed the program and earned a certificate in 2010. Continuing with her studies at Berkeley City College and CoA she earned Associate of Arts Transfer Degrees in Art History and Liberal Arts. After transferring to Cal State East Bay, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Art History in 2017.

This fall Mary returned to CoA and is now working as a teaching assistant in the ADAM program and is also enrolled in a CoA painting course. Mary is an outstanding student and colleague. Wonderful accomplishments Mary! Her paintings are done with acrylics and are 11"x14". One of her works features her parents and tells a visual story about immigration, another is a self-portrait, and a third painting called, 'Sundial' was created as part of a class assignment.

*Submitted by Art Professor Drew Burgess*



*CoA Art Student Mary Hall Patrone captures the theme of Immigration in this portrait of her parents*





## CoA Hosts a Booth at the Oakland Día de los Muertos Festival

CoA hosted an outreach booth at the Oakland Día de los Muertos 27th Annual Festival. Each year this free, outdoor festival attracts over 100,000 people to the vibrant, culturally-rich Fruitvale neighborhood to enjoy world-class live music, family-friendly games, rides and activities, traditional Latin American artisans, and the stunning artistic altar installations created by community members paying homage to los Muertos. During this event, CoA's ACCESO and Financial Aid staff had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of community members and talk with them about educational opportunities at College of Alameda, collect their contact information, and encourage them to enroll in upcoming semesters. Thank you to ACCESO student ambassadors **Almendra Bedolla** and **Marlyn Herrera**, Financial Aid specialist **Stephanie Grigg**, director **Dave Nguyen**, and Director **Horacio Corona Lira** for participating in this community outreach event.



**GET  
\$500  
ON US!**



**PLUS FREE CLASSES!**  
**Spring Semester 2023**  
[\*\*www.alameda.edu\*\*](http://www.alameda.edu)

## Free Classes and \$500 on Us Grants for CoA Students This Spring!

Help spread the word that CoA will be offering free classes and \$500 on Us grants to qualified students for Spring 2023 semester. For details at <https://alameda.edu/FreeSpringPlus500OnUs/>. For more information students may call (510) 295-073, email COA500@peralta.edu, or visit the Virtual Welcome Center Mondays from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesdays through Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/coa500>.



Photo: need names left to right FROM HORACIO

## HACU's Annual Conference Offers a Unique Forum Sharing Best Practices for Educating Hispanics/Latinx Students

CoA staff, faculty, and administrators participated in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 36th Annual Conference, titled “Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Rebuilding a More Resilient and Inclusive America,” on October 8 to 10, 2022. HACU’s annual event provides a unique forum for sharing of information and ideas for the best and most promising practices in the education of Hispanics/Latinx students.

Participants included Vice President of Student Services Dr. **Tina Vasconcellos**, Director Dominique Benavides, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Interim Dean **Reza Majlesi**, Dean of Counseling and Special Programs Dr. **Shalamon Duke**, Enrollment Services Dean Dr. **Amy Lee**, ACCESO Counselor **Danna Chavez Baquero**, ACCESO Specialist **Alejandro Gonzales**, and Director of HSI **Horacio Corona Lira**. Our CoA team heard from leading experts and practitioners about emerging trends in higher education affecting Hispanics/Latinx students and HSIs, best practices, and successful, effective, and exemplary programs and initiatives of HACU member institutions.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, founded in 1986, represents more than 500 colleges and universities in the United States, Latin America, Spain, and school districts throughout the U.S., it is the only national association representing existing and emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

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





## Spring Schedules Are Online

CoA's Spring 2023 Class Schedule is now available [online](#).

Please share the [link](#) to the publication with your students and prospective students.

Classes start January 23, 2023.

Students are encouraged to enroll early to ensure their first choice of classes.



## 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](mailto: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/>