



- President's Corner: Congratulations Class of 2023!
- Alameda Chamber Lunch & Learn Seminar Features the Power of CoA Presentation
- Three CoA Students Receive American Association of University Women Scholarships to Attend National Conference
- SALAAM Learning Community Celebrates Eid al-Fitr
- College of Alameda Kicks Off APIDA Heritage Month
- San Leandro High and Lincoln High School Students and Staff Visit CoA
- CoA Breaks Ground for New Transportation Technology Center
- Professor Danny Nguyen and Class Performs at San Francisco City Hall AAPI Event
- Umoja Program Volunteers Assist at Alameda Food Bank
- CoA to Receive AANHPI SAP Funding
- President's Roundtable Meets for First Time Since Pandemic
- Umoja Students Enjoy Camaraderie and a Movie
- Faculty and Staff Receive Training in First Aid/CPR/AED
- Upcoming Events
- Make Your Splash!



Dr. Diana Bajrami, College of Alameda Acting President

President's Corner: Congratulations Class of 2023!

May is the month when we celebrate the culmination of the hard work and achievements of our graduating students. This year, on Friday, May 26, 2023, at 2 p.m., we will hold a traditional commencement ceremony at the CoA Soccer Field. The last time that we enjoyed a traditional in-person Commencement Ceremony was in May 2019. It finally feels like we are emerging from the challenges presented by the pandemic and embracing the new normal.

I'm delighted to announce that our keynote commencement speaker this year will be former PCCD Chancellor Dr. **Wise Allen**, who began his community college career as a College of Alameda faculty member in 1972. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of our faculty and staff who have supported the Class of 2023 through pandemic-related challenges and have helped them achieve this significant milestone. I am eagerly looking forward to seeing many of you at Commencement this year.

May also is the month that we continue to celebrate Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American (APIDA) month, and the diversity, achievement, and remarkable contributions of APIDA members and communities. The first APIDA event this year, organized by Professor **Julie Saechao**, took place on April 18, 2023. In

addition, there was strong participation of our faculty, classified professionals, and administrators in the PCCD AAPI Mixer; and our own Ms. **Chungwai Chum** kicked off this great event on May 1, 2023.

As we kicked off Asian Pacific Islander Awareness and Celebration month here on campus, the College also was privileged to be a Platinum Sponsor for the annual Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) conference, held in Oakland from April 27 to 28, 2023, which was attended by a robust team of CoA faculty, classified professionals, and administrators.

Among so many leaders in the AANHPI community, including **Frank Chong, Rowena Tomaneng, and Wyman Fong**, I would like to celebrate the CoA APIDA leadership team, including **Ava Lee Pang, Marissa Nakano, Julie Saechao, Cady Carmichael, Amy Lee, Natalie Rodriguez, Chungwai Chum, Danny Nguyen, Andrew Park, Angela Kimble, Fathia Mohammed, Louis Martirez, Dave Nguyen, Marivic Lizardo, and Vincent Catacutan** among so many other CoA family members.

CoA also was represented at the annual San Francisco City Hall celebration of the AAPI Heritage month by the amazing dance team under the direction of Dance Professor **Danny Nguyen**. Thank you, Professor Nguyen, and our CoA Dance team, for such an excellent performance! (Note that there is a link to the video of this performance in the article below.)

On another note, last week we were informed by the Chancellor's Office and Central Office (Foundation for California Community Colleges) that CoA has been identified as one of the 40 colleges to receive Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Student Achievement Program (SAP) funding to "provide culturally responsive services to enhance student educational experiences and promote higher education success for low- income, underserved, and first generation AANHPI students and other underrepresented students. For 2022-2023, we will receive \$162,000 through Apportionment (P2-June 2023).

Furthermore, Dr. **Mildred Lewis**, Interim Vice President of Student Services, in collaboration with Dr. **David Lee**, Director of AANAPISI Program at Laney College, executive teams, faculty, and staff at both Laney College and CoA are working together to obtain a collaborative grant to best serve our AAPI and SWANA students.

Thank you all for all that you do. I look forward to seeing many of you at commencement later this month!

Warmly,

Dr. Diana Bajrami
College of Alameda Acting President



Photo from left: Alameda Chamber and Economic Alliance Lunch and Learn Seminar attendees, including Executive Director, Small Business Development Center, California State University, East Bay, Dr. Nancy Mangold; CoA Interim Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Dr. Reza Majlesi; CoA Dean of Counseling and Special Programs Dr. Shalomon Duke, PCCD Chancellor Dr. Jannett Jackson, CoA Acting President Dr. Diana Bajrami; Alameda County Workforce Development Board Sr. Strategic Partnerships Coordinator Carmelo San Mames, CoA Career Center Director of Workforce Systems Director Stefanie Bradshaw, and President & CEO Alameda Chamber & Economic Alliance Madlen Saddik. Photo 2: President Bajrami presenting at April 2023 Alameda Chamber and Economic Alliance Lunch and Learn Seminar.

Alameda Chamber Lunch & Learn Seminar Features the Power of CoA Presentation

The Alameda Chamber and Economic Alliance Education Program hosts a monthly seminar Lunch & Learn speaker series featuring guest presenters with essential knowledge on relevant business-related topics. On April 13, 2023, College of Alameda (CoA) Acting President **Diana Bajrami** was invited to present a seminar about the Power of CoA, focusing on how employers may recruit talent through the College's various internship, apprenticeship, and job placement services. The luncheon seminar was held at the Trabocco Kitchen in Alameda. Approximately 30 Chamber members attended the event and a number of CoA and District representatives also participated, including Trustee **Bill Withrow**, Trustee **Shewet Yohannes**, Chancellor **Jannette Jackson**, Dean **Eva Jennings**, Director **Stephanie Bradshaw**, Dean **Shalomon Duke**, Professor **Chum**, Professor **Derek Piazza**, and Learning Resources Student **Chaneline Zannou**.

Three CoA Students Receive American Association of University Women Scholarships to Attend National Conference

College of Alameda student scholars **Nickesha Brice**, **Jaqueline Torres**, and **Macarena Valenzuela** have each been awarded a full \$1,500 scholarship to attend the annual American Association of University Women (AAUW) National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland in Baltimore on May 31, 2023. The AAUW usually offers two scholarships for CoA students to attend the conference, but this year AAUW members generously donated an extra scholarship so that all three students could attend the prestigious conference. This special scholarship program is coordinated by **Penny Washbourn** at the AAUW Alameda Branch.



SALAAM Learning Community Celebrates Eid al-Fitr

The SALAAM Learning Community at the College of Alameda recently hosted its first Eid al-Fitr Open House to celebrate the end of Ramadan. Over 100 attendees, including students, district and college staff, parents/guardians, and children, attended the event to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the SALAAM Learning Community.

The celebration began with an introduction from SALAAM Coordinator and Counselor Fathia Mohamed, who highlighted the significance of the community center's existence, especially for students of Southwest Asian and North African ancestry (SWANA).

The SALAAM Learning Community is the first community college program of its kind to serve SWANA students and their families. Since its inception, the SALAAM Learning Community has achieved significant growth and development milestones, including a 24% increase in enrollment since its establishment in Spring 2022, with a 15% increase in full-time students. The majority of SALAAM students are women who reside in the cities of Oakland and Alameda. SALAAM students identify predominantly as White and Asian, and some also identify as Black, Latinx, and Two or More races.

Additionally, 99% of SALAAM students are receiving the California Promise Grant, and 79% are receiving PELL Grants. SALAAM students' top majors are Dental Assisting, Business Administration, and Liberal Arts.

The evening concluded with a commitment from college and high school representatives to work together towards creating additional SALAAM Learning Communities.

Submitted by Project Manager for EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs/Next UP Programs and SALAAM Learning Community Louie Martinez y McFarland



College of Alameda Kicks Off APIDA Heritage Month

The first event celebrating Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month at College of Alameda took place on April 18, 2023. Student enjoyed delicious Asian cuisine and customized their own t-shirts. The specially designed “Hello, I am...” tee-shirts were created to represent the diversity of the APIDA diaspora. Organizer **Julie Saechao** says that the intent was to “challenge the dominant racialized narrative that the APIDA community is a monolithic culture and that the shirts are an opportunity to spark conversation and sharing about our cultural histories as Americans, immigrants, and refugees.”

A second APIDA Heritage month event was hosted by MESA on April 25, 2023, by zoom and also in-person, titled Bridging Boundaries: Navigating Cultural Borders in the AAPI Community. The thought provoking presentation by Professor Cady Carmichael (formerly Cady Bow) addressed physical and cultural boundaries within the political map of Asia and the AANHPI communities. Hosted by MESA and presented by Cady Carmichael (formerly Bow). Additional APIDA Heritage month activities will be held at the College throughout the month of May.



Photo: San Leandro High and Lincoln High Schools students and staff visit CoA on April 25, 2023.

San Leandro High and Lincoln High School Students and Staff Visit CoA

On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, the College of Alameda's EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, and Next Up Programs hosted San Leandro High and Lincoln High Schools students and staff. CoA EOPS Program staff members recently established a new partnership with the San Leandro Unified School District to serve first-generation students, foster youth, and student parents.

Over 50 San Leandro Unified School District high school students attended the event, along with school counselors and classified professional staff members. Many of the high school students who participated in the visit are the first in their families planning to attend college.

The full-day event included a CoA Student Panel, a California Community Colleges (CCC) Apply demonstration, campus tours, and learning about special programs and services, including the Salaam Learning Community, ACCESSO, Puente, Student Accessibility Services, and Financial Aid. The secondary component of the visit was to introduce high school students to concurrent and dual enrollment opportunities.

During the tour, students visited various campus offices and classrooms, including Admissions and Records, the Welcome Center, Apparel Design and Merchandising (ADAM), and Automotive Programs, and college classrooms. For many students, this was their first experience on a college campus and meeting college students and professors. CoA staff learned during the campus tours that there were an additional 60 high school students on the waiting list to visit the College of Alameda.

EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, and Next Up Program staff members are planning follow-up visits, events, and phone calls with students and staff from San Leandro High and Lincoln High Schools during the Summer and Fall semesters of 2023.

Project Manager for EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs/Next UP Programs and SALAAM Learning Community Louie Martinez y McFarland



College and District representatives broke ground for CoA's New Transportation Technology Center (NTTC) for Auto Diesel Programs, on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

CoA Breaks Ground for New Transportation Technology Center

College and District representatives broke ground for CoA's New Transportation Technology Center (NTTC) for Auto Diesel Programs, on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Alten Construction, a full-service San Francisco Bay Area commercial construction company, has been awarded the bid for the 40,000-square-foot transportation technology facility that will host three department programs, including Auto Body and Paint, Automotive Technology and Diesel Mechanics. The project will be paid for thanks to community support for voter approved bond funds.



Photo: Atlas Scholarship and Grant Discussion from left: CoA Acting President Diana Bajrami, PCCD Chancellor Jackson, Surplus Services President Lou Ramondetta, Dean Eva Jennings, Peralta Foundation President Joseph Simmons, and Dean Shalamon Duke



CoA Dance Professor **Danny Nguyen** and students perform at an AAPI cultural event celebrating AAPI on Month on May 3, 2023, at San Francisco City Hall

Professor **Danny Nguyen** and Class Performs at San Francisco City Hall AAPI Event

College of Alameda dance class students and the Nguyen Dance Company, under the Direction of Professor **Danny Nguyen**, performed at a cultural event celebrating AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Heritage Month on May 3, 2023, at San Francisco City Hall. Professor Nguyen's original choreography titled “Essence of Vietnam,” illustrated the beauty and diverse cultures of Vietnam. This highly anticipated event was attended by over 500 guests, including elected officials, dignitaries, leaders, and friends from Bay Area communities.

The City and County Board of Supervisors also presented a special Certificate of Honor to Professor Nguyen for his contributions to the success of the event.



A video of the performance is available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GBd2UAH3hs>

Submitted by Physics and Astronomy Professor Andrew Park

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.



Photo: Student President ASCOA Natay Myers, Staff Assistant/ Student Patrice Rankin, Student Theyshanti Arachchilate, Umoja counselor Valarie Carey

Umoja Program Volunteers Assist at Alameda Food Bank

On April 24, 2023, CoA Umoja Program students, counseling faculty, and staff volunteered at the Alameda Food Bank. Students enthusiastically served in various food packing, sorting, and distribution volunteer roles. In order to strengthen partnership opportunities, Umoja Counselor **Valarie Carey** will work with Alameda Food Bank representatives to organize future activities.



CoA to Receive AANHPI SAP Funding

College of Alameda recently received notification from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and Foundation for California Community Colleges that the College has been identified as one of the 40 colleges to receive Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Student Achievement Program (SAP) funding "to provide culturally responsive services to enhance student educational experiences and promote higher education success for low- income, underserved, and first generation AANHPI students and other underrepresented students. For FY2022-2023 CoA will receive \$162,000 through Apportionment.



From Left: Cesley Frost, Bill Withrow, Derek Piazza, Diana Bajrami, Reuben McElligot, Marianne Carter, Felicia Vargas, Richard Watters, Ed Kofman, Shalamon Duke, and Mildred Lewis touring an ADAM Classroom at College of Alameda on April 19, 2023.

President’s Roundtable Meets for First Time Since Pandemic

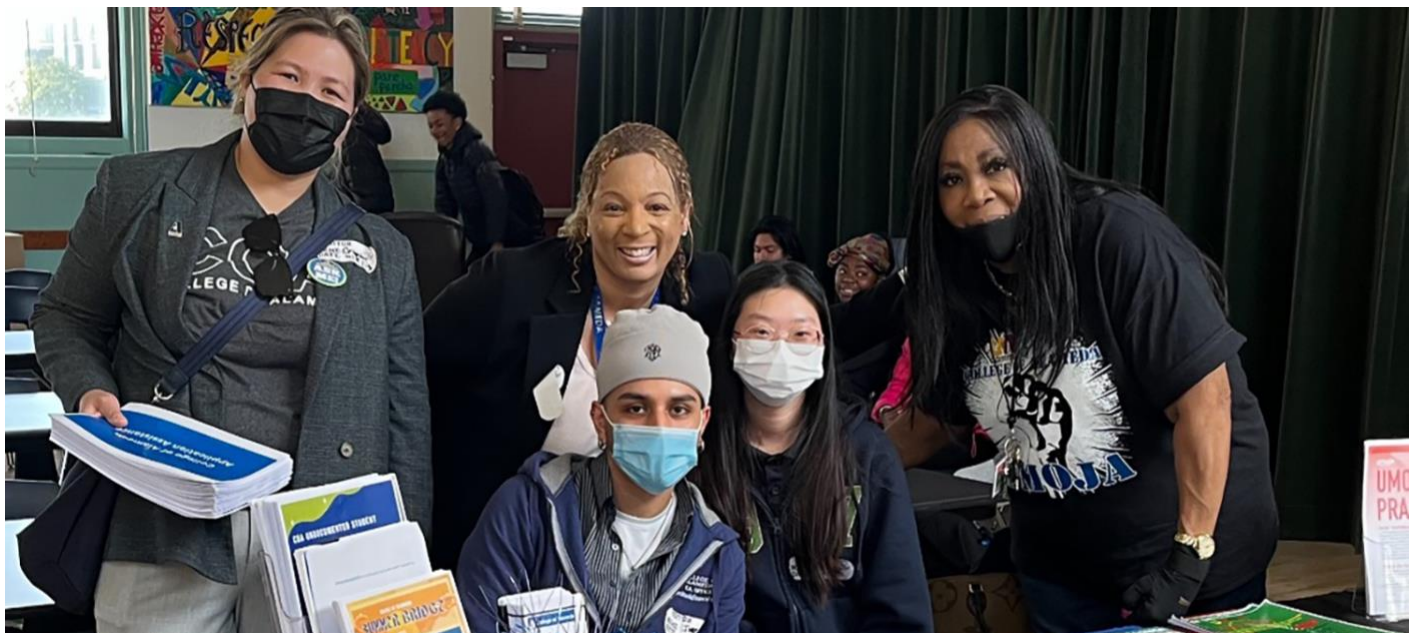
The College of Alameda President’s Roundtable held its first post-pandemic breakfast meeting on April 19, 2023, at the College’s Liberal Arts Center Conference Room. The Roundtable was formed in 2015 to include key individuals from business, industry, government, education, and the philanthropic sector who would serve as the College’s strategic advisors and play an important role in helping ensure the success of College programs and students. Roundtable Members also participated in the virtual College’s 50th Anniversary Online Gala in 2020. The last time that the Roundtable met in person was in October 2019. Participants included: CoA Acting President Diana Bajrami, Alameda Youth Basketball Board Member **Marianne Carter**, Dean **Shalamon Duke**, Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 3 Senior Policy Advisor **Cesley Frost**, Vice President Business Services **Augustine Gil**, Dean **Eva Jennings**, President/Founder Alameda Community Fund **Ed Kofman**, Interim Vice President of Student Services **Mildred Lewis**, Associated Students of College of Alameda Representative **Natay Myers**, Alameda Chamber Ambassador **Reuben McElligot**, Faculty Senate President **Andrew Park**, Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Superintendent **Pasquale Scuderi**, Marketing and Communications Consultant **Cathy Summa-Wolfe**, AUSD Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway Specialist **Felicia Vargas**, Alameda Boys and Girls Club Chief Executive Officer **Richard Watters**, and Peralta Community College District Trustee **Bill Withrow**.

The agenda featured a brief special presentation by Dr. Bajrami titled “Strengthening Our Community Partnerships to Best Serve the Educational Needs of Our Students and to Align with Community and Industry Labor Needs,” followed by a tour of the Apparel Design and Merchandising (ADAM) Program hosted by Department Chair **Derek Piazza**.



Umoja Students Enjoy Camaraderie and a Movie

Students from the College of Alameda Umoja program come together to create a sense of community and camaraderie on campus while enjoying a movie day. The students loved the event and are looking forward to even more exciting occasions in the future. Food, entertainment, and laughing were all in attendance. The event was organized by Umoja Counselor **Valarie Carey** and attend by students **Saji Muanza, Chanceline Zannou, Muhammad, and Kholood B.**



The CoA Mobile Outreach team and Umoja program representatives visited Island High School on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, to help students with enrollment applications and provide information about matriculating to the College of Alameda. In addition, team members answered inquiries about financial help and continued to establish connections with members of the community. Umoja Counselor **Valarie Carey** helped spearhead the event, which was staffed by student workers and college staff.

Submitted by Umoja Counselor Valarie Carey



Faculty and Staff Receive Training in First Aid/CPR/AED

CoA Faculty and Staff were invited to take a free Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED class provided by Marina Security where they were able to get the skills and knowledge to save someone's life.

Submitted by Counselor Julie Saechao, M.S.



SUMMER SESSIONS 2023

Six-week Session: June 20 - July 27

Eight-week: June 20 - August 10

Four-week: July 3 - July 27

FALL SEMESTER 2023

August 21 - December 16

Upcoming Events

Emeritus Luncheon

May 12, 2023, noon

Dance Department Presents: “SORROW RISING”

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Commencement

May 26, 2023, 2 p.m.

College of Alameda

Soccer Field

Spring Intersession

[Three-Week Online Session](#)

May 30, 2023 to June 16, 2023

SUMMER SESSIONS 2023

Earn full term credit in as little as 4-, 6-, or 8-weeks this summer at College of Alameda!

Six-week Session: June 20, 2023–July 27, 2023

Eight-week: June 20, 2023–August 10, 2023

Four-week: July 3, 2023–July 27, 2023

FALL SEMESTER 2023

Fall 2023 Classes are FREE!

August 21, 2023–December 16, 2023



*College of Alameda
Dance Department
Presents
“SORROW RISING”*

College of Alameda Dance Department proudly presents **Sorrow Rising**, an informal dance performance directed by Danny Nguyen, dance professor. This performance will be held at the **College of Alameda’s Dance Studio G-111** on **Thursday May 18th** at **7:00pm**. **Admission is free.**



This is our 27th annual production together and features all dance classes, drawing from experienced as well as students new to dance. **Sorrow Rising** provides all dance students with the opportunity to perform and to build confidence in their skills. The students comprised a diverse group of different ages and physical abilities, offering a unique blend of athleticism, elegance, and sheer joy.





SAVE THE DATE

EMERITUS LUNCHEON

JOIN US FOR A LUNCHEON TO
HONOR OUR 2022-2023 FACULTY
RETIREES!

LIST OF RETIREES AND RSVP
INFORMATION COMING SOON

Friday May 12, 2023 | 12 PM to 2PM

Encinal Yacht Club
1251 Pacific Marina
Alameda, CA 94501

Hosted Jointly by the College of Alameda
Academic Senate & Office of the President



Class Of 2023 **COMMENCEMENT**



Save the Date

**May 26, 2023
2:00 PM
College of Alameda
Soccer Field**



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/>