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*Dr. Diana Bajrami,
CoA Acting President*

President's Corner: Welcome to a New Semester and a New Academic Year: We Have Much to Celebrate and More Work Ahead of Us

It was such a great pleasure to see everyone together at CoA during the College Flex Day. Professor **Drew Burgess** reminded us that we are an exceptional college where every voice is valued, and our shared commitment to shaping futures calls for collective effort.

We had a successful 2022-2023 Academic Year, marked by growth in both Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) and productivity. This achievement was made possible through our collaborative efforts guided by our mission and the **ABCs**: **A**cademic excellence, **B**udgetary competence, and **C**ommunity engagement. The development of the Educational Master Plan was a testament to the strength of our collective dialogue and work.

Our first fully in-person graduation in recent memory, held on May 26, 2023, was a poignant reminder of the significance of our work. In the last academic year, 282 students graduated, earning 262 associate degrees and 224 certificates. The 2023 graduating class reflects our commitment to diversity, with students hailing

from various backgrounds, cultures, faiths, and walks of life. Our youngest graduate was 16 years old, while our most senior graduate was 75. Notably, 54% of our graduates were first-generation students, and 64% received Financial Aid.

For the second consecutive year, we managed to increase enrollment while maintaining fiscal responsibility and avoiding overspending. This fiscal prudence is a result of ongoing training and transparent, data-driven decision-making.

We commenced this academic year with strong summer enrollment, surpassing the FTES percentage target at 101% and maintaining high productivity. This success is attributable to our continued community engagement and collaboration with both the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and Alameda Unified School District (AUSD). As we remain firmly rooted in our community, we anticipate further positive outcomes.

The Fall semester has begun well, with our projected FTES expected to exceed last Fall's numbers. Our dedicated faculty, classified professionals, student leaders, and administrators are working together to invite the community to our beautiful college and revitalize campus life. The well-coordinated and beautifully executed Welcome Week events demonstrated that together we can indeed continue to make our campus exceptional and engaging.

As I recently shared with an Alameda Post journalist, what truly sets CoA apart as an exceptional college is our collective dedication to this institution and our shared commitment to enhancing teaching and learning while serving the educational needs of our diverse communities.

There is much important work ahead of us as we creatively and collectively strive to improve our institution further for the benefit of our students.

Warmly,

Dr. Diana Bajrami

College of Alameda Acting President



Alameda Post FRONT PAGE SECTIONS EVENTS TOURS MEMBERSHIP ABOUT
» Ken Der 📅 September 6, 2023 ⌚ 7:45 am 📁 Alameda Life
CoA Puts the 'Community' in Community College
The new Fall 2023 semester at the **College of Alameda (CoA)** presents a multitude of opportunities for new beginnings.

Hot Off the Press: CoA Puts the Community in Community College

In a lively interview with President Bajrami and CoA students, Alameda Post Reporter Ken Der takes a closer look at the College's many opportunities on offer this fall. Click [here](#) to access the article.

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.



"The experience of the ADAM program has been engaging, insightful, and empowering by igniting my growth mindset to always innovate ideas into action. I am now a confident, highly-skilled, multi-hyphenate entrepreneur committed to paying it forward."

Inga Langford
ADAM Student



"I am currently pursuing an AS degree with a concentration on Airframe and Powerplant maintenance. This scholarship will certainly strengthen my opportunity to buy useful and decent tools, thus, pay for the certification exams."

Matthew Leung
Aviation Maintenance
Technogo Student



"My name is Aileen Perez and I am studying to become a lawyer. I will be transferring to UC Berkeley this upcoming fall semester. I have been supported a lot here at College of Alameda, and it feels bittersweet to leave. I plan to use this scholarship award to cover attendance costs."

Aileen Perez
CoA Transfer Student

Academic Senate Congratulates Scholarship Winners

College of Alameda Academic Senate congratulates **Aileen Perez, Matthew Leung, Batsaikhan Batmunkh, and Inga Langford** on receiving College of Alameda Academic Senate Scholarships for Spring 2023.

Aileen Perez is studying to become a lawyer and is transferring to UC Berkeley for Fall 2023. She will use the scholarship award to cover attendance costs. In addition, she shares: "I have been supported a lot here at College of Alameda, and it feels bittersweet to leave."

Matthew Leung is currently pursuing an AS degree on Airframe and Powerplant maintenance, aiming to attain a career where he can use his specialized aviation knowledge and mechanical skills combined with a strong sense of safety. The scholarship will help him buy useful and decent tools, as well as pay for the certification exams.

Batsaikhan Batmunkh is working on a degree in Business Administration to pursue his passion in management and finance. This scholarship will provide the financial assistance for Batsaikhan to continue his educational journey with renewed vigor and confidence.

Inga Langford is completing her AA degree in Apparel Design and Merchandising with a concurrent Master of Business Administration, launching her pilot collection in the Summer of 2023. She shares: "The experience of the ADAM program has been engaging, insightful, and empowering by igniting my growth mindset to always innovate ideas into action. I am now a confident, highly-skilled, multi-hyphenate entrepreneur committed to paying it forward."

Many thanks to CoA faculty and staff who have written letters of recommendations for our wonderful students, as well as to the members of the scholarship review committee and the wonderful Peralta Colleges Foundation staff. The scholarship (now at \$1000 per award) is funded through your generous donations; please look for upcoming requests for donation for the next scholarship cycle in Spring 2024.

Submitted by: DE Coordinator Richard Kaeser, Written by: Professor Andrew Park, past CoA Academic Senate Treasurer



CoA Welcomes Associated Students from Sister Colleges

On Friday, August 4, 2023, between 10 AM and 2 PM, the College of Alameda warmly hosted the Associated Students from its sister colleges: Berkeley City College, Laney College, and Merritt College. This event was graced with the presence of **Dr. Mildred Lewis**, Interim Vice President of Student Services, and **Natalie Rodriguez**, Acting Dean of Enrollment Services, who extended a special welcome to the student leaders.

The leadership training session was expertly guided by **John Nguyen**, Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Basic Needs from Berkeley City College, along with **Atiya Rashada** and **Doris Hankins**, Directors of Student Activities and Campus Life from Laney and Merritt Colleges, respectively. The comprehensive training covered essential topics, including an overview of the Brown Act, Robert's Rules of Order, Budget Training, Minute Taking, Event Planning, and Communication Skills. To fuel the minds of these aspiring leaders, College of Alameda generously provided a delicious free lunch from a locally-owned small business, **Mint Leaf Cafe**.

Submitted by Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Dean of Student Enrollment Services

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.

COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA PAID OFF-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP

Fall 2023 Internship Pilot Program



New Internship Pilot Program Launched at CoA

CoA's Internship Pilot Program is set to kick off this Fall 2023 Semester. The initiative marks a significant milestone for the College, as it is one of only two community colleges in the state of California participating in the Internship Pilot program to support the Learning Aligned Employment Plan (LAEP). This partnership not only benefits CoA students but also contributes to the growth of the local economy.

The Pilot Program is designed to provide CoA students with valuable real-world work experience while fostering partnerships with local employers in the City of Alameda, including ABB Optical, the Alameda Chamber of Commerce, and the Alameda Post. Students participating in the program will dedicate 20 hours per week to their internships and will receive competitive compensation at a rate of \$21 per hour for a total amount of \$4,200. The inaugural cohort will accommodate up to nine students.

CoA is the only community college with an Internship Pilot Program that collaborates with a county-funded workforce development department and the CoA Career and Employment Center, to provide comprehensive support to students. The program aims to serve as a model for other community colleges with similar county-funded workforce development grants, showcasing how these services can be leveraged to support LAEP.

The College's partnership with the **Foundation for California Community Colleges** has been instrumental in making this program possible. The Foundation will serve as the employer of record, hiring students as short-term employees, and handling payroll processes.

The LAEP Internship Pilot Program is being administered under the co-direction of **Eva Denise Jennings**, Dean of Career and Workforce Education, and **Stefanie Bradshaw**, Director of Workforce Systems. The program represents a significant step forward in the College's commitment to providing students with practical, career-relevant experiences.



When you **empower somebody** and you provide them an **opportunity** to go to school, they will.

CoA Receives \$1.5 Million Rising Scholars Juvenile Justice Grant

The College of Alameda is the recipient of a Rising Scholars Juvenile Justice Grant offered by the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). The grant award is \$1.5M for five years. The grant was co-led and co-written by **Dr. Shalamon Duke**, Dean of Counseling and Special Programs and **Stefanie Bradshaw**, Director of Workforce Systems.

For this grant, the College partnered with the local juvenile hall in San Leandro to provide transitional age youth (TAY), ages 18-25, with education and workforce services while detained and post release. The College of Alameda Rising Scholars Juvenile Justice Grant Project is slated to begin Spring 2024.

Project Focus:

- Provide an inter-generational holistic service delivery model for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and their families through access to education, certification attainment, and free career services.
- Leveraging the existing partnership between CoA and the Alameda County Workforce Development Board Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant, which currently serves justice impacted residents within Alameda County with free career services.
- Partnering with Laney Restoring Our Communities (ROC) program to leverage the existing work Laney does inside juvenile hall to avoid duplication of services.

*The state will provide CoA with an official grant award letter once the awardees go to CCCCCO Board meeting on September 25, 2023.



Kudos

ESOL Professor **Dr. Didem Ekici** was invited to join “UNESCO Expert Consultation on Intercultural Competencies for Peacebuilding” in July 2023. The UNESCO Headquarters office in Paris organized a series of virtual consultations to get suggestions from experts in the field of Intercultural Competence and Peacebuilding from all around the world. Dr. Ekici was invited to the Asia and Pacific cohort because of her experiences and research in this region. UNESCO will develop a toolkit based on the selected concrete ideas and recommendations discussed in the expert consultation.



Dr. William Ramos Ochoa

Welcome Dr. William Ramos Ochoa, Acting Dean of Liberal Studies and Language Arts

Dr. William Ramos Ochoa has been appointed as the Acting Dean of the College of Arts (CoA) with a focus on Liberal Studies and Language Arts (LSLA). Ochoa brings a wealth of experience in higher education, particularly in the realm of dual enrollment initiatives and dedicated service to underserved students. His journey in higher education began at Laney College, where he was a student himself. In 2020, he returned to Laney College as the director of the Gateway Program, a role dedicated to facilitating the transition of high school students into the college environment. In the interim period between his time as a student at Laney and his directorship of the Gateway Program, Dr. Ochoa earned both a Master of Arts and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Throughout his career, he has also served as an instructor and held various leadership positions in coordinating community college programs. Dr. Ramos Ochoa is a passionate and dedicated educator whose primary goal is to empower students to succeed in their educational journeys.



Welcome Week Pancakes with the President & Fiesta Lunch with Faculty a Great Success!

Tasty Tuesday

During Welcome Week on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, the College of Alameda Basic Needs Center kicked off the semester by welcoming everyone back to campus with hot dogs from local Alameda vendor The Pampered Pup. In addition to serving lunch, students were greeted with a continental breakfast, including coffee, orange juice, and fresh pastries. The Basic Needs Center has unveiled its rebranding for its programs and services. In addition to Tasty Tuesday, The Market provides fresh produce the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Additionally, The Market is CoA's official student pantry, providing shelf stable food products and personal care items. Dates for upcoming Markets will be posted on the CoA website calendar. A new endeavor, The Boutique, will be launched this semester offering gently used clothing items available to students on a first come, first served basis.

Pancakes with the President and Fiesta with the Faculty

On Wednesday, August 23, 2023, **Dr. Diana Bajrami**, Acting President, welcome and served scores of pancakes, breakfast burritos, fresh fruit, and an assortment of beverage options during the second annual Pancakes with the President event. Students had the opportunity to meet the College President, Interim Vice President of Instruction **Maurice Jones**, and other faculty, staff, and administrators.

On Thursday, August 24, 2023, faculty members hosted a delicious free Fiesta Lunch for students. Students were warmly welcomed and enjoyed the fun and informal opportunity to meet their professors.



COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA
BASIC NEEDS

Basic Needs at College of Alameda includes The Market, Tasty Tuesday, and The Boutique. When available, we also also distribute Wi-Fi Hot Spots, Emergency Food Grants, Emergency Aid, and we connect you to other Basic Needs resources both within and outside the CoA community.

CONTACT US



Jeremy Simmons, Basic Needs Coordinator
 F-Bldg/Student Center (First Floor)
jsimmons@peralta.edu
alameda.edu/campus-life/basic-needs/



FALL 2023

ESOL STUDENT ORIENTATION



CoA Holds an In-Person ESOL Orientation

College of Alameda hosted a two-hour English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Student Orientation on Thursday, August 31, 2023. The event included free lunch, prizes, and was organized by ESOL Faculty-Department Co-chair **Dr. Didem Ekici** and ESOL faculty members. At the orientation, approximately 80 ESOL students learned about various student services, academic integrity, credit and non-credit course options, and modality of classes, including in-person, Hy-Flex, and online.

Additional College faculty and staff also presented at the event on a variety of topics, including

- Health & Wellness Services: **Lisa Sawadago** and Team
- ACCESO: **Paul Gonzalez**
- SALAAM: **Fathia Mohamed**
- EOPS: **Fathia Mohamed**, and
- College Administration.

Submitted by Interim Vice President of Student Services Dr. Mildred Lewis

PERALTA COLLEGES MEDICAL SERVICES

Laney Wellness Center
900 Fallon St Oakland CA, 94607
Student Center 4th Floor, SC-410

OPEN TO ALL PERALTA STUDENTS



Come in, we're OPEN

Mondays-Fridays
8:30AM-5:00PM
Walk-ins or
Appointment



**PHYSICAL EXAMS,
VACCINES, TB TESTS,
COVID TESTS
HEALTH INSURANCE,
ENROLLMENT, REFERRALS,
HEALTH EDUCATION**

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: STI
TESTS AND TREATMENT,
PREGNANCY TESTS, BIRTH
CONTROL, EMERGENCY
CONTRACEPTION, CERVICAL
CANCER SCREENING**



Contact Us:
510-464-3134



Wellness Center Updates

We are now taking referrals for mental health counseling services. Please see the link below or the QR code on the flyer to encourage students to request an appointment if they need extra support. Please note that we have moved to a new location in Cougar Village CV-124, come visit us!

Roots Community Health Center will continue to provide nursing and basic medical services at Laney College Monday - Friday. On CoA's campus in CV-124 we still have band aids, tampons and pads, condoms, and take home covid-19 tests that students can access while supplies last.

Please send me an email or give me a call if you'd like one of our staff to stop by your classroom or area to share about the services offered by the Wellness Center. [Please click here to request a classroom presentation.](#)

Be on the lookout for upcoming events and an invitation to stop by to see our new space. We have an incredible team of staff this year and look forward to collaborating. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Submitted by Lisa Sawadogo, Health Services Coordinator

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.



Fall Cohorts Kick Off with 14-Week Classes

CoA students can earn full-term course credit by enrolling in a 14-, 10-, or 8-week session. Classes are offered in-person, Hy-Flex, and online.

- For information on 14-week classes: <https://alameda.edu/14-week/>
- For information on 10-week classes: <https://alameda.edu/10-week/>
- For information on 8-week classes: <https://alameda.edu/8-week/>



Spring Semester, Class of 2023 Honorees, and Summer Activities Round-up

On Saturday, May 21, 2023, Acting Dean **Natalie Rodriguez** provided a campus tour for twelve (12) students and their families who traveled from the Central Valley’s Bakersfield High School as a part of their PODER program through the Parent and Family Center.

Monday, May 22nd

ASCOA President **Natay Myers**, Vice President of Operations, **Semeon Thomason**, Vice President of Programing **Junhao “Jay” Ma**, Treasurer **Marcus Sillemon**, and Senator **Macarena Valenzuela** pose with **President Bajrami**, **Director Rodriguez**, and **Viviana Rodriguez-Smith** as they were recognized for their service in the 2022 – 2023 academic year.





Class of 2023 Salutatorian, **Octavian Yuen** delivers a special address to his fellow honorees. Octavian is 16 years-old and currently attending Encinal High School. He earned an AA degree in Computer Information Systems while being dual enrolled at CoA and high school. He will complete his Senior Year of high school at Encinal this upcoming academic year.

On Monday, May 22, 2023, the Office of Student Activities and Campus Life hosted the first in-person Scholar's Banquet since 2019. The Scholar's Banquet honored the Associated Students of the College of Alameda, the Class of 2023's Valedictorian **Ms. Verlie Carmack Collins**; Salutatorian **Octavian Yuen**; and President's Medallion winner **Juliette "Ottie" Breen**; as well as all scholarship and award recipients through the Peralta Foundation. **Octavian Yuen**, the Class of 2023 Salutatorian delivered a special address to his fellow honorees.

Xingones catered dinner for the event and desserts were provided by Lala's Tea Time treats, both locally owned small businesses.

The CoA Class of 2023 Honorees

Salutatorian

Octavian Yuen

Valedictorian

Verlie Carmack Collins

President's Medallion Scholarship

Juliette Breen

Associated Students of College of Alameda

President, Natay Myers

Vice President of Operations, Semeon Thomson

Vice President of Programming, Junhao "Jay" Ma

Treasurer, Marcus Sillemon

Senator, Macarena Valenzuela

Honoring ASCOA Graduates

President, Natay Myers

Senator, Macarena Valenzuela

Scholarship Winners

Peralta Avanzando Through College Program

Michele Almodobar

Xitlaly Vasquez Castillo

Diesel Mechanics Scholarship

Alfredo Vasquez

Ozzie Day Scholarship

Yumeus "Missy" Taylor

Daniel Gilbert Memorial Scholarship

Antoine Ison

Axel Ramos
Byungsoo Kim
Christian Delgadillo
Felix M. Ruiz-Pelayo
Jafar Hosseinzadeh
Pierce Cappache
Richard Nguyen
Steven Yau
Tommy To

PepsiCo Scholarship

Michele Almodobar
Xitlaly Vasquez Castillo
Sahar Sadat
Dawayna Scott
Alaia Bey
Donna Hooper
INGA Langford
Marline Ross
Maleah Salguero
Yosef Weldetsadik
Amber White
Chaneline Zannou

Adeline Giuntini Memorial Scholarship

Inga Langford

Bernard Osher Foundation Scholarship

Baldwin Xu
Bikesh Karki
Bryan Chai
Da'layjah Washington
Donna Hooper
Lesly Nogueta
Manal Alssaidi
Shaimaa Alyamani
Shemicka Johnson
Tuyen Hinh
Yosef Weldetsadik

College of Alameda Academic Senate Scholarship

Ailleen Perez
Batsaikhan Batmunkh
Chak Ming Leung
Inga Langford

Dr. George Herring Higher Education Scholarship

Donna Hooper

Dr. Nathan Strong Academic Scholarship

Ailleen Perez
Batsaikhan Batmunkh
Faisa Kaaid

Dr. Nathan Strong Scholarship for Cougar Basketball Team

Humza Alqublani
Petar Mijatovic

Follett Bookstore Scholarship

Dawayna Scott

Oakland A's Sports Management Endowed Scholarship

Batsaikhan Batmunkh

Patti Heimburger AAUW College of Alameda Scholarship

Donna Hooper

Juliette Breen

Manal Alssaidi

Nallely Marroquin

Yujiao Cantu

Peralta Retirees Organization Scholarship

Batsaikhan Batmunkh

Ruth Bittman Scholarship

Yvonne Chin

Vanson Nguyen & Cheryl Quan Scholarship

Brien Guillory

Raine Allen Pagud

Tracy Enskip



Thursday, June 8th

*Photo: Dean **Eva Jennings**, Interim Vice President of Student Services **Dr. Mildred Lewis**, Acting President **Dr. Diana Bajrami**, Dean **Dr. Reza Majlesi**, and Dean **Lilia Celhay** serve lunch for the Classified Professionals.*



*Photo: Vice President of Business and Administrative Services **Augustine Gill**, Director **Dominique Benavides**, Dean **Shalamon Duke**, and Director **Horacio Corona Lira** serve Classified Professionals.*



Photo: Classified Professionals enjoy a game of musical chairs led by Vice Presidents Lewis and Gill.

On Thursday, June 8th the College of Administrators hosted a Classified Professional appreciation event to which all were welcome. The event included lunch, desserts, music, games, and gifts for all. There was even a special dance number featuring the Administrators and the CoA Cougar! The planning committee was led by Dr. Lewis and included Vice President of Business and Administrative Services Augustine Gill, and Dean Jennings.

Submitted by Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Dean of Student Enrollment Services



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/>