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*Dr. Diana Bajrami,
CoA Acting President*

President's Corner: Visit to China: Education Opportunities Eradicating Borders & Bringing People Together

In an era when education transcends geographical boundaries and brings people together from all corners of the world, College of Alameda (CoA) and the Peralta Community College District (PCCD) have embarked on a transformative journey. In September, I joined PCCD Chancellor Jackson and Office of International Education (OIE) Director Torres-Gill in a trailblazing visit to Beijing, China, cultivating Contract Education opportunities.

Contract Education: Expanding Education Without Borders and Eradicating Barriers

Since its inception in 2009 at CoA, Contract Education has steadily grown, offering approximately 104 courses, with plans to expand by adding an additional 29 courses in the upcoming Spring and Summer terms. The overarching goals are clear: to broaden CoA/PCCD's global reach, connect students with diverse

resources and opportunities, and create a sustainable program that enhances the competitive advantage of CoA/PCCD within the American education landscape.

International Contract Education by the Numbers: Fall 2023

For fall 2023, this initiative boasts impressive figures:

- 200 Transfer-Bound Students
- 7 Cohorts
- 3 Universities
- 2 Cities: Beijing and Hangzhou
- 2 Majors: Economics and Mathematics
- 30 Classes Offered
- 18 Faculty Members from 8 Departments

Remarkably, this represents 9% of CoA's total course offerings, in addition to the allocated Full-Time Equivalent Faculty (FTEF) resources. Departments involved include Art, Economics, English, History, Mathematics, Music, Psychology, and Sociology.



Visiting CoA Students in Three Different Universities in China

During the first week of the academic year, our small delegation visited students in Beijing and Hangzhou, at the following universities: Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU), Beijing; University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), Beijing, and Zhejiang University, Hangzhou. Our interactions with over 200 students, administrators, tutors, and staff were informative and also an opportunity to exchange feedback on the program. We shared valuable college information and resources, and most importantly, expressed gratitude and appreciation.



Zhejiang University, Hangzhou: Students Are Eager to Learn More

One of the most inspiring outcomes of this endeavor is the stories of students who, with the support of CoA/PCCD, are now poised to transfer to four-year colleges worldwide. Take, for instance, the case of students from Nanjing TJYX, where 51 students have successfully transferred to universities around the world, achieving an average GPA of 3.68 (with a minimum of 30 units).

Student Success Factors Include:

- University of California: 30 Transfers
- Other US Universities: 3
- United Kingdom: 6
- Australia: 5
- Hong Kong: 4
- Canada: 2
- Japan: 1

Appreciation and Recognition for the Team that Makes it all Happen

In conclusion, the success of CoA/PCCD's international initiatives would not be possible without the dedicated team that makes it all happen. The tireless efforts of the faculty, administrators, and staff have

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paved the way for these remarkable achievements. Many thanks to the PCCD Office of International Education team members: Director of International Education **Thomas Torres-Gil**; International Student Support Specialists **Annie Yu** and **Kyana Gilani**; Academic Counselor **Todd Shima**, International Program Manager **Karla David**; Study Abroad Faculty Lead **Constance Koo**; and International Student Support Specialists **Karla David**, **Annie Liu**, and **Ryan Gregory**.

Warmly,
Dr. Diana Bajrami
Acting President
College of Alameda



2023 State Conference



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CoA to Host CATESOL Conference and You're Invited!

College of Alameda has been selected as the host institution for the upcoming [California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages \(CATESOL\) State Conference 2023](#), themed “Breaking New Ground.” The conference is scheduled to be held from October 26 to 28, 2023, at the College's Liberal Arts Center. This marks a significant milestone as CoA becomes the first academic institution to host the CATESOL Conference.

The CATESOL Conference is a highly anticipated event that attracts educators and professionals who are dedicated to the instruction of English to Speakers of Other Languages. The conference features workshops led by experts and professionals in their respective fields, providing participants with practical and innovative ideas for enhancing student support. The event promises to offer a valuable and enriching experience, facilitating meaningful discussions, knowledge sharing, and the exploration of cutting-edge teaching methods among peers from various regions of California.

Founded in 1969, CATESOL is a nonprofit organization that welcomes individuals with a shared commitment to the teaching of English as a second or foreign language, standard English as a second dialect, or bilingual education. The decision to host this conference reaffirms College of Alameda's commitment to promoting excellence in English language education and fostering professional development within the ESOL community.

This event provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the College's dedication to excellence in education and commitment to innovation. Faculty and staff are invited to attend the conference. To register and for more information: <https://www.catesol.org/> or contact the Conference Co-Chairs, **Dr. Sedique Popal** and **Talley Caruso**, at catesol2023@gmail.com.



Representatives from various CoA academic programs and services played an essential role in the 31st Annual Citywide College Night

31st Annual Citywide College Night Held at College of Alameda

The 31st Annual Citywide College Night, a collaborative effort between the Alameda Unified School District, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, and College of Alameda, was successfully held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, from 6 PM to 8 PM. This event brought together over 50 colleges and institutions, including prestigious institutions such as the US Coast Guard Academy and the Marines, creating a valuable opportunity for hundreds of local students.

More than 350 students from both Alameda and Oakland actively participated in this informative evening. It served as a platform for students to explore various higher education options and gain insights into their future academic journeys.

Representatives from various College of Alameda academic programs and services played an essential role in this event, including College's Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) Program, MESA, Diesel Mechanics (DMECH), College to Career, Veterans Resource Center (VRC), EOPS/NextUp, and SALAAM Learning Community. Their presence enriched the event, providing valuable outreach information to potential students, helping them make informed decisions about their educational pathways.

Notably, Berkeley City College also had a table at the event and actively engaged with prospective students, further expanding the reach of educational opportunities available to local youth at PCCD colleges.

The collaborative efforts of the participating educational institutions demonstrate a commitment to empowering students and while providing them with the tools they need to succeed in their academic and career pursuits. The 31st Annual Citywide College Night at CoA was a resounding success, fostering a sense of excitement and possibility for the future among the participating students and their families.

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



Photo from left: CoA Student Rana Wair and Alameda Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Madlen Saddik, on October 3, 2023. Photo credit: Stefanie Bradshaw.

LAEP Places Its First Intern at Alameda Chamber of Commerce

College of Alameda proudly inaugurated its Learning Aligned Employment Program (LAEP) on October 3, 2023. We are delighted to announce the successful placement of our very first student intern, **Rana Wair**, who has embarked on a rewarding 10-week, paid off-campus internship with the Alameda Chamber of Commerce. The LAEP, established in collaboration with the Foundation for California Community Colleges, marks a significant milestone for the College. This pioneering internship initiative enables us to connect our students with paid off-campus internships within our local community. It is worth noting that the College of Alameda is one of only two community colleges in the state chosen to participate in this groundbreaking pilot program. **Stefanie Bradshaw**, Director of Workforce Systems at the College of Alameda Career & Employment Center, is coordinating the internship placements and implementation of the pilot program.

Submitted by Stefanie Bradshaw, Director of Workforce Systems

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.



CoA Receives \$1.56 Million Grant to Launch Project HOPE

College of Alameda has received a transformative five-year grant totaling \$1.56 million, with approximately \$312,500 allocated annually. This grant, awarded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, will enable the College to launch [Rising Scholars Project HOPE \(Helping Our People Excel\)](#) beginning in January 2024.

Project HOPE is a groundbreaking initiative aiming to address the needs of Juvenile Justice Transitional Age Youth within Alameda County. These young individuals face significant challenges, as highlighted by an October 2022 report from the Alameda County Probation Department. According to the report, of the 1,134 older youth within juvenile hall, 89% are males, with 55% identifying as Black and 39% as Latino. Furthermore, 94% of all youth in juvenile hall are facing felony charges.

Project HOPE is designed to mitigate toxic stress and amplify opportunities for success for these young individuals. It focuses on six key pillars to provide a holistic and streamlined approach to service delivery:

1. Building Trust
2. Empowerment
3. Counseling
4. Education
5. Basic Needs / Community Partnerships
6. Workforce Development

One of the unique aspects of Project HOPE is its commitment to providing services both pre- and post-release. To this end, College of Alameda has established a partnership with the Alameda County Probation and Juvenile Hall to ensure the successful implementation of Project HOPE within the juvenile hall facility. This collaborative effort involves close coordination with key stakeholders to identify the most effective strategies for delivering Project HOPE services.

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The overarching goal of Project HOPE is to build a supportive community, reduce recidivism rates, increase access to education and employment opportunities, and enhance the overall life expectancy and quality of life for Juvenile Justice Transitional Age Youth in Alameda County. Participating schools and institutions include: Island High School, Bunche Continuation School, Dewey Academy, Rudsdale Continuation, Oakland International, Sojourner Truth Independent Study, Street Academy, Camp Wilmont Sweeney, and Alameda County Juvenile Hall.

College of Alameda will offer the following wraparound services to participating students: A²MEND, Basic Needs, Career Center, CoA Produce Market, Learning Resource Center, Mental Health Services, UMOJA, EOPS/CARE, Next Up, SAS, College Promise, and Financial Aid Counseling. In addition, the College will work with community partners to offer additional wraparound services, including UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, Alameda County Workforce Development Board (ACWDB), Alameda County Probation Department, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), Alameda County Public Defenders, and the City of Alameda Community Development Department. The College plans to register 440 students over the next five years in Project HOPE in a minimum of nine units per student.

Submitted by Dr. Shalomon Duke, Dean, Counseling & Special Program



CoA C2C Hosts National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Event

The College of Alameda - College to Career (C2C) program recently hosted a series of workshops to commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This event, conducted in partnership with the Center for Independent Living, Inc. (CIL), showcased the program's commitment to promoting inclusivity, awareness, and empowerment.

Observed federally each October, NDEAM is designed to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

In recognition of this month, C2C provided students and Alameda County community members with a platform for meaningful discussions and learning. The event featured two prominent items: (1) Equity & Access: Employment Panel and (2) Disability Justice Panel. These events brought together experts, advocates, and individuals with disabilities to share their insights, experiences, and solutions.

The Equity & Access: Employment Panel explored the challenges and successes in the world of disability employment, shedding light on the unique perspectives and opportunities within this sphere. It served as an inspiration for those seeking to navigate their career paths while facing disabilities. The Disability Justice Workshop was another integral part of the event, delving into the broader issues of justice and equality for individuals with disabilities. This panel sought to promote a more inclusive society, emphasizing the significance of creating equal access, opportunities, and rights for everyone.

The “C2C Presents: Disability & Intersectionality Speaker Series (2023)” event achieved its objectives in creating awareness, fostering dialogue, and inspiring collective action. Participants left with a deeper understanding of the issues faced by individuals with disabilities in the workforce and a renewed commitment to advocate for positive change.



College of Alameda Hosts the Third IEPI Site Visit

On September 13, 2023, College of Alameda hosted the third site visit of the [Institutional Effectiveness and Partnership Initiative \(IEPI\)](#) leads, marking an important follow-up to our status report submitted under the IEPI Grant. The report outlined progress in three key areas:

1. Professional Development & Learning Center: CoA has been working diligently to establish a comprehensive training program under this center.
2. Equitable Student Access, Success, and Enrollment Stability: College-wide efforts have been concentrated on ensuring equitable opportunities for students while addressing enrollment challenges.

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.

3. Fiscal Responsibility and Collaborative Mindset: Faculty, staff, and administration are committed to fiscal prudence, resource optimization, and fostering collaboration.

During the site visit, College representatives expressed gratitude to the IEPI Peer team for their guidance and support. The Peer Resource Team (PRT), led by Dr. **Mandy Liang**, commended the efforts of our faculty, classified professionals, and administrators and acknowledged the progress reflected in our status report.

Faculty and staff celebrated the College's improvements in each area of focus, emphasizing the positive changes that have occurred and the breakdown of barriers between instruction, student services, and fiscal leadership.

In conclusion, the meetings were positive and productive, leaving us with a sense of optimism. CoA remains committed to progressing in all areas, with upcoming budget training in November, ongoing work by the enrollment taskforce, and the promising launch of the Classified Professional Development Committee. These initiatives reflect the College's dedication to continuous improvement and collaboration.



Umoja Chill & Chat Event Attracts New Students

A lively Umoja Chill & Chat event was held on September 19, 2023, at College of Alameda where 50 new students were welcomed to the program. The event was coordinated by CoA Counselor **Valarie Carey** in collaboration with members of the Umoja Team. CoA Acting President Dr. **Diana Bajrami** welcomed students to the event. Professor **Stephanie Ulrey** was a presenter, and Interim Vice President of Student Services Dr. **Mildred Lewis** and Dean of Career and Workforce Education Dr. **Eva Jennings** were also on hand to greet and talk to students. The event was a great success and students, faculty, and staff are looking forward to more Umoja events later this semester.

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Welcome to Our Newest Staff Member

Ms. **Mindy Huang** will serve as the Executive Assistant for the Office of the President. Prior to joining CoA, she was the Senior Evaluator at SJCC, where she managed all the logistics needed to support student services and graduation proceedings. She is collaborative, efficient with use of technology and with robust knowledge of community colleges. Ms. Huang is a Bay Area native, who loves the diversity and food around the Bay. In her down time, she enjoys sipping a cup of tea while listening to instrumental covers.

Acting President Bajrami is delighted to welcome Ms. Huang to the position. “She will be a great addition to the Office of the President team and to CoA,” said Dr. Bajrami in an email to all college members. “I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. **Chungwai Chum** and Mr. **Shane Williams** who have supported the Office of the President during this entire time.”



College of Alameda Aviation Maintenance Technician Program students, faculty, and staff hosted a booth at the annual Hayward Airport Open House on September 24, 2023. The event boasted an impressive turnout, drawing in over 7,500 attendees and transforming the airfield into a bustling hub for aviation enthusiasts and families.

Soaring High: College of Alameda's Aviation Maintenance Technician Program Takes Flight at the Hayward Airport Open House 2023

On September 24, 2023, during the annual Hayward Airport Open House, the skies above Hayward, as reported by Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Program Student **Tracey Sato**, came alive. The event boasted an impressive turnout, drawing in over 7,500 attendees and transforming the airfield into a bustling hub for aviation enthusiasts and families.

Esther Cheng, the AMT Program Supervisor, took charge of organizing the College's booth at the event. Students, acting as ambassadors, enthusiastically shared their knowledge about the program. Their passion for aviation proved infectious as they recounted their personal journeys, which began with enrollment in the program and culminated in hands-on experience with real aircraft. They also highlighted the vital role played by aviation maintenance in ensuring aviation safety. Many attendees, including prospective students and visitors, left with valuable insights into the AMT Program, and several expressed keen interest in enrolling.

Sato, one of the AMT student volunteers at the event, expressed her hope that sharing her personal journey with prospective students would aid individuals from diverse backgrounds in finding a path to explore and excel in the aviation field.

The Hayward Airport Open House serves as a unique platform for AMT students to connect with industry professionals, witness the latest advancements in aviation technology, and explore the myriad opportunities available within the aviation industry.



CoA Sends Team to the California Guided Pathways 2.0 Event

College of Alameda sent a team of seven professionals, consisting of faculty members, classified professionals, and administrators, to the California Guided Pathways 2.0 event held at the Oakland City Center Marriott from September 27 to 29, 2023. The event centered on enhancing the College's student-focused approach using the Guided Pathways framework.

During the conference, the CoA team attended presentations that provided insights into best practices for creating a more student-centered campus. These presentations equipped team members with valuable strategies to support student success.

In addition to attending presentations, the team engaged in daily strategy meetings to assess progress and chart their direction for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. These meetings served as a platform for the team to maintain a clear focus on its Guided Pathways goals.

A key outcome of their participation in the event is bolstering CoA's commitment to strengthening its Guided Pathways plan. The College will collaborate closely with its stakeholders to develop and implement effective guided pathways tactics tailored to helping part-time students. It's worth noting that only a handful of California Community Colleges have ventured into implementing Guided Pathways for part-time students.

CoA remains steadfast in its goal of promoting student success and is poised to be a trailblazer in the continued advancement of Guided Pathways within the California Community College system.



On September 28, 2023, College of Alameda representatives attended the Alameda Economic Forecast event.

Alameda Economic Forecast Event Provides Unique Insights

On September 28, 2023, College of Alameda representatives attended the [Alameda Economic Forecast](#) event. Those in attendance included Peralta Community College District Trustee **William Withrow**, Academic Senate President **Jennifer Fowler**, President **Nathaniel Jones III**, Acting President **Diana Bajrami**, Dean of Career & Workforce Education **Eva Jennings**, and classified professionals **Chungwai Chum** and **Ava Lee Pang**.

The Alameda Economic Forecast provided a unique opportunity to acquire cutting-edge insights into the economic landscape of the City of Alameda and the greater Bay Area. Attendees had the chance to explore the latest trends in biomedical and healthcare industries and network with industry leaders.

The event was an engaging experience that offered valuable insights for businesses, investors, and policymakers alike.

Speakers at the Alameda Economic Forecast included:

- Keynote Speaker: Founding Partner at Beacon Economics Dr. **Chris Thornberg**.
- Attorney General **Rob Bonta** discussing "Business Security in California."
- An Economic Panel presented by the [Azzur Group](#) titled "The Future Is Now: How the Alameda Economy Is Changing." This panel featured insights from biomedical, energy, and transportation experts. This panel included the following experts from biomedical, energy, and transportation sectors: CEO **Adam Elsesser** of Penumbra; Executive Vice President and General Counsel **Jeffrey J. Hessekiel, J.D.** of Exelixis; CEO **Mike Laufer** of Kairos Power, Inc.; CFO **Warren DeSouza** of Sila Nanotechnologies, Inc.; and CEO **Philip Lee** of GeneFab. The panel was skillfully moderated by Executive Director of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance **Stephen Baiter**.




COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA
 YOUR FAMILIA AT COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

Unidos Somos Más Fuertes

We Still Here

Nos Tenemos

Thursday, 10/12
 11:30 – 2 pm
 Room H 313
 Film Screening
 Q&A with the Directors
 Antojitos from La Perla
 CoA Ethnic Studies



College of Alameda does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ancestry, citizenship, national origin, military or veteran status, disability, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition, and immigration status.

Thursday, October 12th: Latinx Heritage Month: Unidos Somos Mas Fuertes Presents WE STILL HERE NOS TENEMOS

On behalf of the CoA Latinx Heritage Month planning committee, please join us for the next Latinx Heritage Month at College of Alameda next Thursday, October 12th!

Sponsored by the HSI grant, the We Still Here Nos Tenemos film screening will feature a Q&A session with the directors, performances, and Puerto Rican *antojitos* from local restaurant La Perla.

Please join us from 11:30 AM to 2 PM in Room H 313 in the H building.

October 16th: Undocumented Student Action Week

This is the 7th Annual California Community Colleges [Undocumented Student Action Week](#). This week was designed by the State Chancellor's Office to raise awareness about the challenges undocumented students continue to face.

Join our Undocumented Student Success Program Coordinator **Juan Lopez** for this series of informational and interactive events.

Submitted by Natalie Rodriguez, Interim Dean of Student Enrollment Services

SPECIAL EVENT
WEEKLY HOUR
 MONDAY
 WEDNESDAY
 THURSDAY
 FRIDAY
 NEW CHERRY: NEW RESTORING

COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA PRESENTS
UNDOCUMENTED
 STUDENT ACTION WEEK OCT 16-20TH, 2023

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ISSUE NO. 7 ALL WEEK SPECIALS: CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES WEBINARS [TINUVAL.COM/CAUAW23](https://tinuval.com/CAUAW23)

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM
 UNDOCUALLY
 NEEDS OF ALIENAGE

MONDAY
 OCTOBER 16TH 12:20 - 1:20PM
 PRESENTING
 JULISSA ARCE
 YOU SCREAM LIKE A WILD GIRL
 JULISSA ARCE
 Join BCC and other Peraltan colleges with nationally recognized author and artist Julissa Arce for a free film screening and Q&A session. Arce's debut novel, *You Scream Like a Wild Girl*, explores the experiences, struggles, and joys of undocumented students.

HOSTED BY MORELLO CITY COLLEGE (MCC) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PERALTA COLLEGES

TUESDAY SPECIAL
UNDOCUMENTED START 2023
 THE STARCAST RESOURCE FAIR
 OCTOBER 17TH 12 - 2PM COA F BUILDING LEVEL 1
 Are you familiar with the services and programs COA offers that can help you succeed throughout your Community College career? Please join us to learn about all the COA services and programs accessible to students regardless of status. We will have resources, food, activities and more! In the spirit of spooky season, you may dress up in your best 80s gear!
tinuval.com/USTRT23

THURSDAY
IDENTITY WORKSHOP & BOOK READING
 OCTOBER 19TH 11:30AM - 2PM COA H-BUILDING LOBBY
 Join us for an Identity Workshop led by Interim Dean of Student Enrollment Services, Natalie Rodriguez and a book reading of "Entre La Miel y El Fuego" by Oakland Native and Poet, Dayci Carrillo Lopez. Learn about Dayci's experiences through her Spanish poetry collection that focuses on themes of immigration, love, heartbreak, and community.
 FREE PASTRIES, COFFEE, AND TEA WILL BE PROVIDED WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!
 PRESENTING
 DAYCI CARRILLO LOPEZ

FRIDAY
PERALTA DREAMERS FIELD TRIP
 OCTOBER 20TH - 10-45AM
 COA H-BUILDING LOBBY
 Peralta Scholars! Discover undocumented student support services & resources at the UC Berkeley Undocumented Student Program (USP). This is a free field trip opportunity! We will meet @ COA then travel to BCC, UCR, together! Lunch will be provided!
 REGISTER NOW!
[TINUVAL.COM/PERALTAFIELDTRIP](https://tinuval.com/PERALTAFIELDTRIP)

FOR MORE INFO, SUPPORT, OR QUESTIONS CONTACT THE COA UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM (USSP)
 VISIT: ALAMEDA.EDU/COAUSSP | JUAN.LOPEZ@PERALTA.EDU | (510) 439-1134

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.



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/>