



# President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees



February 13, 2024

Acting President Dr. Diana Bajrami



*College of Alameda faculty, staff, and students were delighted to welcome PCCD Chancellor Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson for a special visit.*

## Chancellor Gilkerson Explores Innovation at College of Alameda

On Friday, January 12, 2024, College of Alameda students, faculty, and staff were delighted to welcome Peralta Community College District Chancellor **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson** for a special visit to the campus. The day commenced with meetings with COA's administrative team and leaders of student, faculty, and classified professional constituency groups, offering a platform for introductions and a direct exchange of ideas with the diverse voices that contribute to COA's unique identity. The Chancellor's visit continued with a tour of the H Building, showcasing innovation and progress. Here, she had the opportunity to witness firsthand the cutting-edge facilities that house some of COA's most innovative learning communities, highlighting the College's commitment to providing students with the tools and learning environments that are essential for academic excellence. Chancellor Gilkerson took a walking tour to various areas of the campus, allowing her to connect with more members of the COA family.



## Exploring Collaborative Opportunities: Saint Joseph Notre Dame School Meets with College of Alameda Team

On January 11, 2024, a delegation from Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School engaged in fruitful discussions with the College of Alameda (COA) team to delve into potential partnerships aimed at supporting students in achieving their academic aspirations.

Led by Principal **Father Steve Kim**, the Saint Joseph team comprised Vice Principal **Andrew McKee**, College and Career Counselor **Elizabeth Hunter**, Dean of Academics **Mustafa Siddiquee**, Director of Counseling **John Gunty**, and Director of Admission **Eileen Graybeal**.

Representing COA, the team included Acting President **Dr. Diana Bajrami**, Acting Vice President of Instruction (VPI) **Maurice Jones**, Deans **Dr. Shalamon Duke** and **Natalie Rodriguez**, and Counselor **Julie Saechao**.

The primary focus of the meeting was on establishing pathways to collaborate, with a particular emphasis on exploring opportunities for dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and summer programs at College of Alameda.

This joint effort demonstrates the College's commitment to providing enriched educational experiences for students, fostering seamless transitions between educational institutions, and creating diverse pathways to academic success.

We look forward to the potential outcomes of this partnership and the positive impact it may have on our students' educational journey.

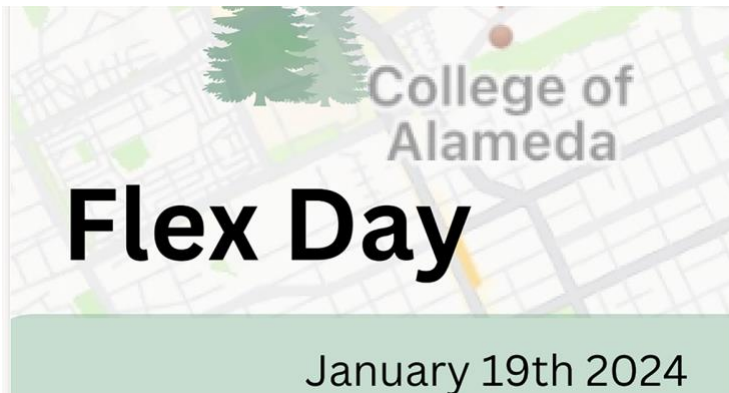


## AUSD and COA Forge Ahead: Strengthening Collaborative Initiatives

On January 17, 2024, members of the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Board of Trustees, **Jennifer Williams** and **Gary Lam**, along with Superintendent **Pasquale Scuderi**, convened with COA Acting President **Diana Bajrami**, VPI **Maurice Jones**, and VPSS **Mildred Lewis** to explore ongoing partnerships between AUSD and COA.

The collaborative team delved into schedules, catalogs, and various options for collaboration, with a specific focus on summer bridge programs, dual enrollment, and concurrent enrollment.

This continuous collaboration has yielded significant improvements for our students and communities, marking a collective effort to enhance equitable student success and access. As we persist in working together, the impact of this partnership continues to resonate positively throughout our educational institutions and the broader community.



## Spring Flex Day: Navigating Success Together

Spring Flex Day brought the entire COA community together, fostering teamwork to navigate current opportunities for thriving as an institution of higher learning and promoting community partnerships. Professor Drew Burgess and the PD team curated a robust and beautifully designed list of activities for the entire day.

President Bajrami seized the opportunity to welcome everyone to a successful Spring Semester, emphasizing current successes and future endeavors. The “College ABCs” took center stage in the president's

presentation, with improved enrollment, budgetary competence, and community engagement emerging as key themes.

The Academic Senate, classified professional leadership, and Peralta Federation of Teachers (PFT) extended a warm welcome to faculty and classified professionals for the new semester and year, providing essential updates.

Two impactful morning sessions, led by **Dr. Didem Ekici, Professor Cynthia Haro, Professors Trish Nelson, and Vinh Phan**, focused on guided pathways, major curriculum state mandates, and initiatives.

The afternoon sessions featured a series of workshops delving into being a teaching college, social-emotional learning, trauma-sensitive practices, and a discussion and brainstorming session on program and institutional learning outcomes. The collective engagement showcased the dedication of the COA community to continuous improvement and excellence in education.



## A Resounding Success - Highlights from the Spring 2024 Free Enrollment Festival at College of Alameda

College of Alameda (COA) hosted its Spring 2024 Free Enrollment Festival on a drizzly Saturday in January 2024 prior to the start of the semester. Despite the inclement weather, the event turned out to be a resounding success, welcoming 84 eager students who enthusiastically started their academic journeys.

*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 festival aimed to provide comprehensive support to students navigating the enrollment process, ensuring a smooth transition into the college's many academic programs. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with counselors who crafted personalized student education plans, paving the way for a successful educational experience.

COA's commitment to accessibility was evident through the provision of financial aid support services at the event, a crucial element in breaking down barriers to education. Students explored various financial aid options, empowering them to pursue their academic dreams without unnecessary hurdles.

The collaborative efforts of Welcome Center staff, Admissions & Records, and our dynamic Learning Communities were instrumental in orchestrating this event. To add a touch of warmth to the rainy day, attendees were treated to hot chocolate and treats, creating a welcoming atmosphere. Background music also provided an upbeat backdrop, enhancing the overall experience for both students, faculty, and staff.



*COA students join Acting President Bajrami on January 24, 2024, for Pancakes with the President as part of the College's Spring 2024 Welcome Week Activities*