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*Dr. Diana Bajrami,
Acting President, College of Alameda*

President's Corner: Empowering Community

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the College of Alameda chapter of the Peralta Association of African American Affairs (PAAAA) committee for orchestrating a wonderful series of Black History Month events this year. These events culminated in the Grand Finale Sunday Dinner, a beloved COA tradition, at noon on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The COA PAAAA Black History Committee, in collaboration with Student Services and the Office of the President, organized a collaborative Sunday Dinner this year coinciding with Tasty Tuesday and featuring delicious hot soul food, desserts, and culture.

During the College Council meeting on February 28, 2024, we were honored to host PCCD Chancellor **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson**, who announced during the Public Comment section that the District is initiating the search for the College's permanent president and hopes to fill the position by July 2024. The search will be led by search consultant **Dr. Helen Benjamin**. Chancellor Gilkerson also expressed gratitude to College leadership, classified professionals, and faculty for the warm welcome she received during her previous visit and various listening sessions.

Additionally, during the last College Council meeting, the Academic Senate and Classified Senate leadership discussed various initiatives aimed at engaging the entire community in dialogue and sharing research and successes. These efforts include organizing brown bag series, recognizing classified and faculty of the year, and hosting other community-building events.

I also want to express my appreciation to **Kawanna Rollins** and **Jamille Teer** for their outstanding work in establishing the First Annual All Classified Professional Development Day titled: Learn, Evolve, and Grow! The inaugural event will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is supported by the Institutional Effectiveness and Partnership Initiative (IEPI) Grant. All classified employees (Confidential, L39, and SEIU 1021) are invited to attend and can register for the event online: <https://shorturl.at/fUV49> .



PCCD Trustee Bill Withrow, PCCD Chancellor Tammeil Gilkerson, and COA faculty and staff leaders at the State of the City of Alameda event.

In community news, College of Alameda was recently recognized at the State of the City of Alameda event, which was held on Feb 29, 2024, for its outstanding work within the community. Chancellor **Gilkerson**, PCCD Trustee **Bill Withrow**, and COA faculty and staff leaders were in attendance. **Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft** recognized the Chancellor, PCCD Trustee, and the college's exceptional efforts to serve the City of Alameda community.

I am delighted to announce that College of Alameda will be hosting the upcoming one-day symposium, "Education: Becoming a Lifelong Learner," on Friday, March 8, 2024. This event, sponsored by the Alameda Chamber and Economic Alliance, will feature a dynamic lineup of speakers dedicated to providing lifelong learning opportunities. Coinciding with International Women's Day, the symposium will highlight a keynote address by our esteemed COA alumna and prominent Bay Area leader and entrepreneur, **Dr. Chris Wachira**. Joining Dr. Wachira, we have a diverse array of speakers including: **Pasquale Scuderi**, Superintendent of Alameda Unified School District, **Jennifer Williams**, President of the AUSD Board, **Lianna Lau**, Student Board of Education Representative for AUSD, **Felicia Vargas**, CTE Pathway Specialist at AUSD, **Vicki Sedlek**, Executive Director of the Alameda Education Foundation, and **Mike Robbins**, Motivational Speaker and Author. This symposium promises to be an enriching and inspiring event, bringing together leaders from both business and education to foster a culture of lifelong learning in our community.

Finally, I want to share with you what a great honor and immense joy it has been to serve as your Acting President over the past eighteen months. As conveyed in my email to the College community on March 6, 2024, after careful consideration and in-depth reflection, I have made the decision not to pursue a contract extension as Acting President of COA. I firmly believe that my knowledge, skills, and expertise will be most beneficial to COA and PCCD in my capacity as an economics educator.

Thank you to everyone for your dedication to our students and your contributions to making COA a thriving and inclusive learning community.

Warm Regards,
Dr. Diana Bajrami
Acting President, College of Alameda

Introducing Our New Part-Time Counselors

The College of Alameda Counseling Department recently welcomed three outstanding individuals to its team of part-time counselors. We are thrilled to have Puente Counselor **Teresa Castro**, General Counselor **Charles Washington**, and Rising Scholars/General Counselor **Marvin Thompson** join our counseling team! You can read more about them in their biographies below.

Teresa Castro, M.A.

Teresa Castro's journey exemplifies the transformative power of education and community support. Born and raised in San Jose, CA, to Mexican immigrants, Teresa embarked on her educational path at De Anza College, where she became part of the Puente Program. Puente provided her with a supportive community and invaluable guidance from mentors and counselors, enabling her to pursue higher education. After earning her Associates of Arts in English and Liberal Arts, Teresa transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Inspired by the profound impact of community college and Puente on her own journey, Teresa earned a Master of Arts in Counselor Education at San Jose State University. Teresa began her professional experience at De Anza College, where she interned with the Puente Program, worked full-time with the Office of Outreach, and part-time with the International Student Program. Throughout her career, she has thrived in supporting first-generation and underrepresented students, helping them navigate their educational paths and achieve their goals.

Charles Washington, M.S.W.

Charles Washington brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his role as a counselor and instructor at College of Alameda. His journey began as a part-time Counselor for COA's Brotherhood program, where he demonstrated his commitment to supporting students. Over time, Mr. Washington transitioned to a full-time role as an EOPS counselor while also teaching dual credit courses at McClymonds High School. Throughout



The individuals captured in the photograph are Charles Washington, Marvin Thompson, and Teresa Castro. Photo credit: Dr. Shalomon Duke.

his tenure at COA, Charles has held various roles, including counseling support for the men's basketball team, Umoja Counselor/Coordinator, Next Up Counselor, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) transfer coordinator. Notably, he successfully coordinated seven annual HBCU tours, contributing to COA's distinction of having the highest transfer rate to HBCUs in the district. Charles's dedication to expanding students' horizons led him to collaborate with Merritt College on taking 15 COA students to Jamaica for a transformative study abroad experience. After relocating from Houston, Texas, where he served as a Social Work Advisor/practicum coordinator for the University of Houston's School of Social Work, Charles is excited to return to COA and continue making a positive impact on students' lives.

Marvin Thompson, M.S.

Marvin's journey is a testament to resilience and determination. Hailing from Pomona, California, he faced numerous challenges growing up, contending with the burden of societal labels that often hindered his belief in his own potential, particularly as a Black male. Despite these obstacles, Marvin emerged as a resilient individual, shaped by the adversities he encountered. After initially dropping out of high school, Marvin later reclaimed his education by earning his General Educational Development Test (GED) at Pomona Adult & Career Education. In 2008, he embarked on his academic journey at Mt. San Antonio College, where he found a supportive environment that laid the groundwork for his success. Marvin's educational pursuits continued at the University of La Verne, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. Recently, he completed his Master's in Education with an emphasis in College Counseling at the University of Redlands. Marvin is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Educational Leadership at San Francisco State University, driven by his passion for empowering others through education.



Enrollment Services Coordinator Nickey Heredia and Student Worker Josh Estrada at the Oakland International High School Fair.

Students at the Oakland International High School's After High School Options Fair Are Enthusiastic about Enrolling at COA

On Monday, February 27, 2024, Enrollment Services Coordinator **Nickey Heredia**, and Student Worker **Josh Estrada**, represented College of Alameda at Oakland International High School's After High School Options Fair. They enthusiastically shared information and resources about COA with 11th and 12th graders. Many

students expressed interest in COA's Promise and Career Education programs, and some mentioned their intent to attend COA after their high school graduation.



College of Alameda launched its Black History Month (BHM) festivities on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

Celebrating an Enlivening Month of Black History

College of Alameda launched its Black History Month (BHM) festivities on Thursday, February 1, 2024. Professor **Jody Campbell**, chair of the Ethnic Studies department, served as the master of ceremonies. The event began with a customary tribute to ancestors through libations, led by Professor Campbell, followed by a blessing delivered by Classified Senate Secretary **Shawn Foster**. Vice President of Instruction **Maurice Jones** welcomed attendees with an opening address. The celebration featured live music by the renowned Black Excellence Band, a fixture at CoA's Black History Month events. Participants were treated to a complimentary lunch at the F Building Pit, courtesy of a partnership between the college and the Outreach and Retention Office.

BHM festivities continued on Thursday, February 15, 2024, when students gathered for the Expressions of Black Art Event, led by local artist **Alana Landrum**. The event provided a creative platform for students to express themselves through drawing, painting, and writing on canvas. Snacks and water were available in the



H Building Lobby for participants. The event was sponsored in collaboration with Mental Health funds and

Students enjoy the Grand Finale Sunday Dinner, a beloved COA Black History Month tradition, featuring hot soul food and culture. the Outreach & Retention Office.

BHM festivities concluded in style on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the well-attended and much appreciated Grand Finale Sunday Dinner, a beloved COA tradition featuring hot soul food, culture, and

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.



delectable desserts. The COA PAAAA Black History Committee, in collaboration with Student Services and the Office of the President planned the festive feast. Special thanks to the COA PAAAA Black History Committee and all who participated in making BHM 2024 a great success.

Spring 2024 ESOL Student Orientation Attracts a Full House

College of Alameda, in collaboration with the EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs/NextUp, Salaam Program, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), held an especially well-attended Spring 2024 ESOL Student Orientation on February 1, 2024. The event provided ESOL students with an opportunity to kickstart the semester and connect with faculty and peers. Students familiarized themselves with ESOL program



offerings and meet their peers. The event was organized by Faculty Co-Chairs **Dr. Didem Ekici** and **Christa Ferrero**, and Project Manager for EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs/Next Up, Salaam **Louie Martinez**.

COA Launches Rising Scholars Initiative for Student Success

Under the leadership of Counseling and Special Programs Dean **Dr. Shalamon Duke** and team, College of Alameda's Rising Scholars initiative kicked off with its first meeting in early February, bringing together college members and various community partners to launch a program aimed at supporting student academic success. The meeting began with introductions and a presentation outlining the goals and objectives of the

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.

Rising Scholars program. Participants discussed the specific needs and challenges faced by students, along with strategies for providing comprehensive support services. Community partners shared their resources and expertise, highlighting opportunities for collaboration. Overall, the meeting set a positive tone for the initiative, fostering enthusiasm and commitment among all stakeholders to work together in empowering students and fostering their success. The focus of the Rising Scholars program is to provide an inter-generational holistic service delivery model for Transitional Age Youth (TAY), ages 18-25, Juvenile Justice youth, and their families through access to education, certification attainment, and free career services.



Led by James Hewlett, Director of CCURI, the workshop provided faculty with insights into best practices and real-world case studies.

CCURI Training Held at COA

On February 21, 2024, College of Alameda hosted a two-day training session on the [Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative \(CCURI\)](#). The focus of the training was on equipping faculty with the knowledge and tools necessary to integrate student-led research Course-Based Research Experience (CURE) into their coursework and departments.

Led by **James Hewlett**, Director of CCURI, the workshop provided faculty with insights into best practices and real-world case studies from community colleges, demonstrating effective methods of incorporating research experiences into regular courses. Participants worked collaboratively in teams to develop tailored long-term strategies and implementation plans.

The training introduced faculty to the CURE approach, emphasizing student-led research on real-world problems. This methodology has shown to significantly enhance students' overall learning experience.

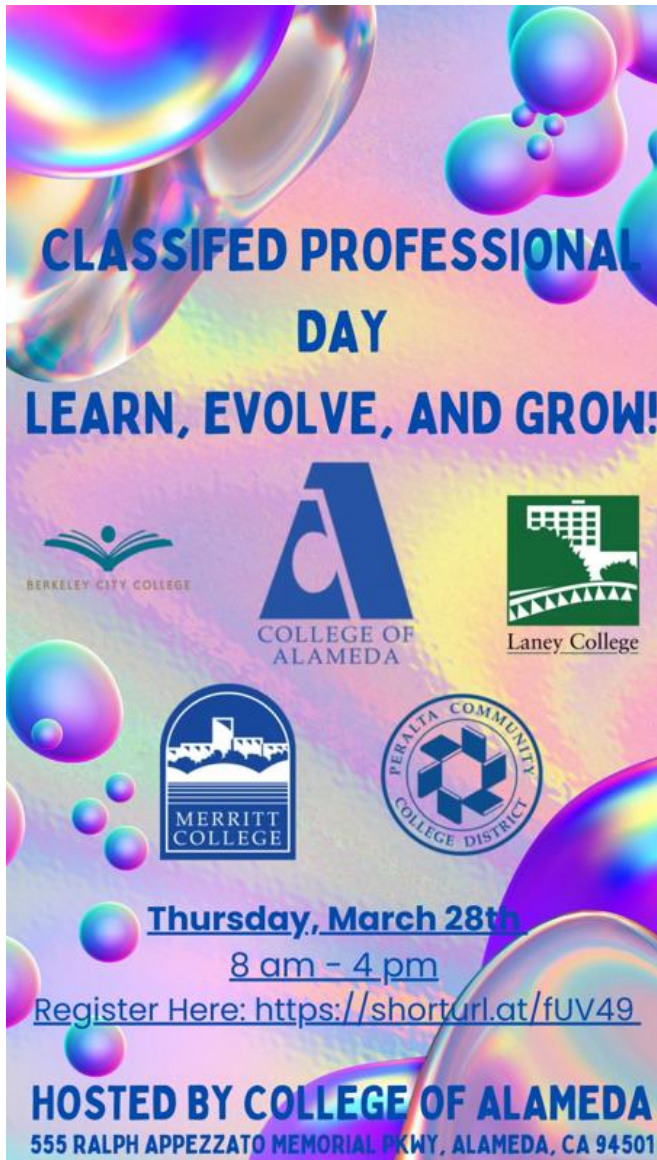
Funding for this workshop was provided through the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) division at College of Alameda, in collaboration with MESA Connect and faculty from California State University East Bay (CSUEB). The initiative is supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF).



Guided Pathways Team Discusses Ways to Increase Student Success

COA held its first Guided Pathways meeting of the spring semester on February 20, 2024 to discuss retention strategies and ways to increase student success. The Guided Pathways framework creates a highly structured approach to student success that provides all students with a set of clear course-taking

patterns that promotes better enrollment decisions and prepares students for future success. The Guided Pathways framework also integrates support services in ways that make it easier for students to get the help they need during every step of their community college experience.



Register Now for the 1st Annual COA All Classified Professional Development Day: Learn, Evolve, and Grow!

College of Alameda and its ad-hoc Classified Professional Development Event Committee would like to invite you to the first annual Classified Professional Development Day.

All classified employees (Confidential, L39, and SEIU 1021) are invited to attend.

Thursday, March 28, 2024
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
H-building

Register online at: <https://shorturl.at/fUV49>



Fast-Track Your Success: Enroll Now in Short- Term Classes at College of Alameda

Accelerate your academic journey this Spring 2024 with our short-term classes at College of Alameda. While the semester is in full swing, there's still time to add your choice of 10-week or 8-week in-person/hybrid, and online classes and earn full-term course credit in less time.

Finish your degree, certificate, or transfer program faster. Enroll in at least 6 units and enjoy free enrollment. Shorter late starting classes provide flexibility and are a cost-effective way to propel your education forward in less time

10-Week Classes start March 11

<https://alameda.edu/10-week/>

8-Week Classes Start March 18

<https://alameda.edu/8-week/>

HOW TO ENROLL:

Current and Returning students log onto sa.peralta.edu to register today. New students apply for admission at <https://alameda.edu/enroll/> – or visit the College of Alameda Welcome Center for assistance. Please select “Spring 2024” as the term to enroll

Fast-Track Your Success With Short-Term Classes at College of Alameda

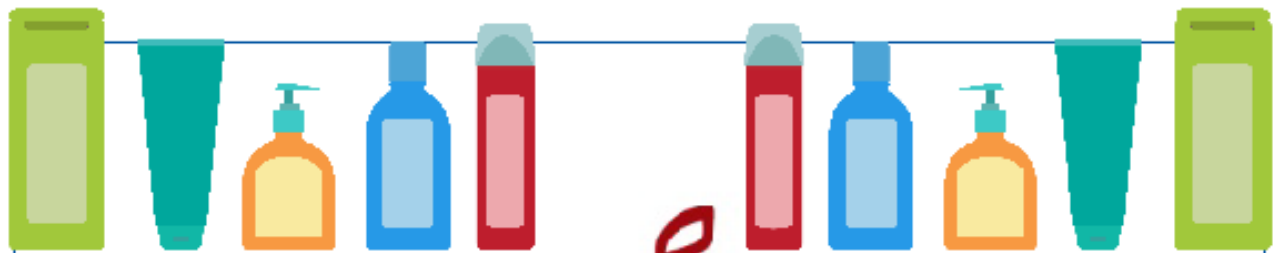
**Earn full-term credit in less time and
finish your degree, certificate, or
transfer program faster!**

10-Week Classes Start March 11, 2024
<https://alameda.edu/10-week/>

8-Week Classes Start March 18, 2024
<https://alameda.edu/8-week/>



Believe. Achieve. Succeed.



The Market

COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

Need help with personal care items? Stop-by our pop-up!

- Open on *most* Tuesdays when we do not have produce/groceries
 - Personal Care/Hygiene (soap, body wash, toothpaste, sanitizer, etc)
 - Laundry Supplies (detergent, bleach)
- Available to *all* CoA students (enrolled in at least one course)
- Students should have a **valid student ID** with current term sticker

F Building / Student Center – First Floor

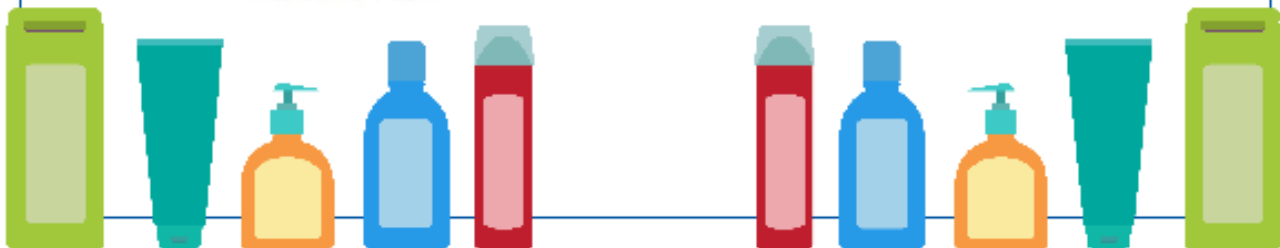
11:30 – 1:30

In partnership with the ECMC Foundation



ECMC
Foundation

Questions? Contact: **Jeremy Simmons**
Basic Needs Coordinator College of Alameda
jsimmons@peralta.edu





College of Alameda

TASTY TUESDAY



FREE Lunch for Students*



**EVERY
TUESDAY**

During the Fall and Spring Semesters

When: 11:30 to 1:30

Where: Student Center / F-Building

Tasty Tuesdays connects COA students to free lunch, resources, and activities on campus.

Food for Tasty Tuesdays is made possible by COA's Basic Needs funds.

*Students must present their physical Student ID with current semester sticker in order to obtain a lunch.



Tasty Tuesday
COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA



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/>