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*Dr. Pamela Luster, Acting President
College of Alameda*

President's Corner: Appreciation and Updates

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who has warmly welcomed me to College of Alameda over the past few weeks. Your support and goodwill highlight the resilience and strength of this college community. I am truly honored to be a part of such a dedicated team.

As we move forward, I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with you in supporting the vital work that you do for our students and community. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact and foster success for all.

I am also delighted that **Dr. Stephanie Droker** has joined us as our Acting Vice President of Instruction. With her wealth of experience, including her previous roles as President/Chief Executive Officer of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and PCCD Interim Deputy Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Droker brings invaluable insight and leadership to our team.

While we are already well into the spring semester and graduation is on the horizon, I want to remind you that Priority Registration for the Summer and Fall semesters has begun. The new Schedule of Classes is available online at: <https://tinyurl.com/35ptv282>, and I encourage you to promote early enrollment to ensure students secure their desired classes for the upcoming terms.

I also am pleased to share an important update regarding the search for a permanent President of College of Alameda. On March 21, 2024, Peralta Community College Chancellor **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson** officially launched the search process. The District is working with consultants **Dr. Helen Benjamin** and **Dr. Cindy Miles** of HSV Consulting to guide the recruitment and screening process to identify candidates to lead the college. The application deadline is April 21, 2024, and interviews are scheduled for May. I encourage you to stay informed about this process by visiting the CoA President Search website at <https://alameda.edu/our-college/president-search/>.

Thank you once again for your continued dedication and commitment to College of Alameda. Together, we will navigate these transitions and continue to uphold our mission of excellence in education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela Luster
Acting President
College of Alameda



COA Teams Up with Beyond Emancipation to Support Foster Youth

In an exciting development for the College of Alameda community, the Education Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) and Next UP have forged a partnership with [Beyond Emancipation](#), an organization dedicated to empowering foster youth in achieving their education and career aspirations.

The need for foster youth services is critical. In Alameda County, between 300 and 400 youth leave foster care annually. With limited education, few job skills, and often facing physical and mental health concerns, Alameda County's emancipated youth are at a significantly high risk for homelessness, substance abuse, unintended pregnancy, and incarceration.

Led by Education and Career Coaches **Ixchel Mayorga** and **Dwana Timms**, Beyond Emancipation will have a presence on the COA campus twice a month to collaborate with the Next UP and EOPS Programs. Their mission is clear: to provide tailored support and guidance to foster youth, helping them navigate the complexities of enrollment processes, FAFSA applications, scholarships, resume building, and mock interviews. Located in Room A-105 of the A-Building, adjacent to the EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, Next UP, and SALAAM Programs, office hours are scheduled for the second Thursdays and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Photo left: COA's information table at the Care 2 College Conference held at CSUEB. Photo right: conference participants enjoy lunch.

Care 2 College Conference for Foster Youth, Caregivers, and Supporters Highlights College Preparation

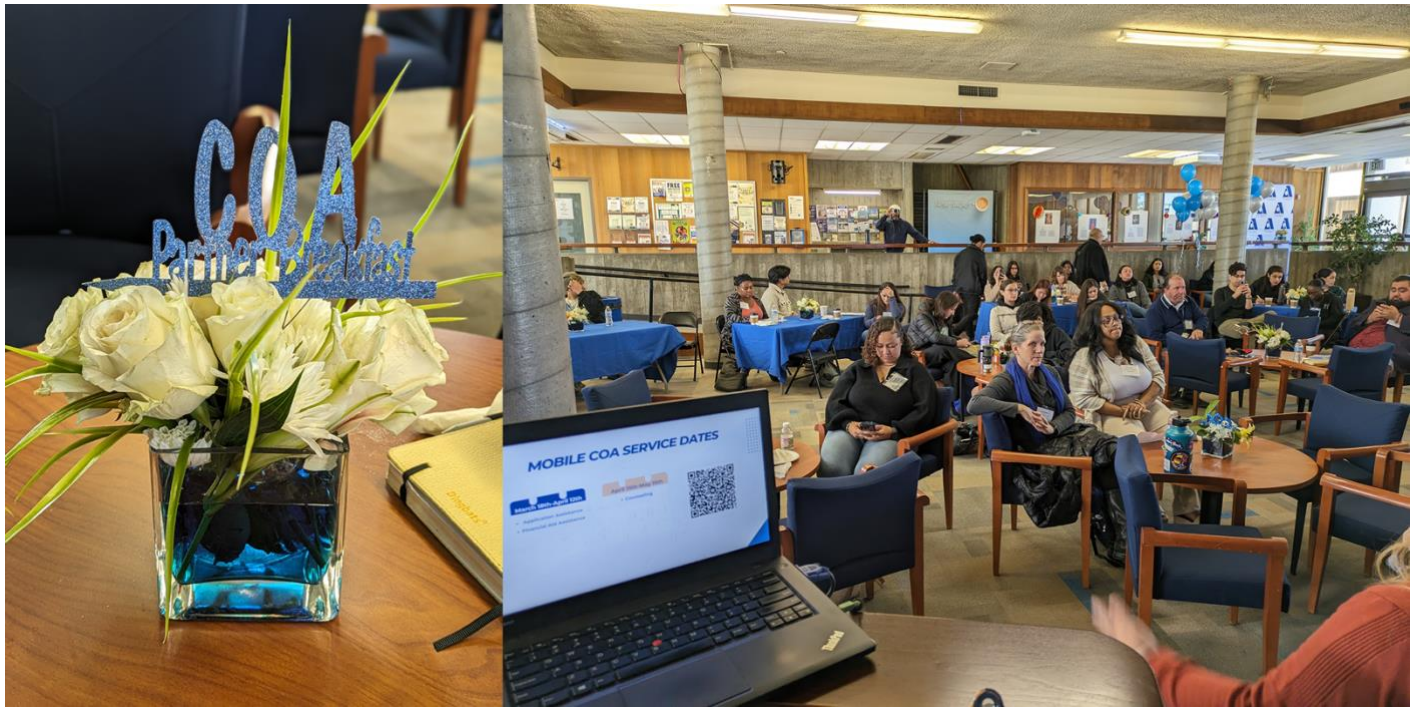
Alameda County Foster Youth and their supporters, including COA, gathered at the Care 2 College Conference, held on Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 9 am to 2:30 p.m. at the Cal State East Bay University Union. The event aimed to equip attendees with valuable insights into planning for college, navigating financial considerations, and fostering success in higher education.

The collaborative initiative, known as Care 2 College, brought together the California State University East Bay (CSUEB) Renaissance Scholars Program (RSP) and various regional agencies and institutions dedicated to serving foster youth. This gathering provided a platform for fostering dialogue and offering resources crucial for academic achievement beyond high school.

The event's keynote address was delivered by **Hasan Davis J.D.**, a prominent advocate, trainer, and motivator renowned for his work in championing Positive Youth Outcomes in education, child welfare, and juvenile justice initiatives. His insights illuminated pathways toward academic success and underscored the importance of civic engagement in shaping a brighter future for foster youth.

Among the participants representing COA at the event were **Jeremiah Poti, Fathia Mohamed, Louie Martinez y McFarland, and Brian Donato.** Despite COA's information table being located upstairs at the venue, it garnered significant foot traffic, underscoring the community's interest in college readiness initiatives.

By facilitating meaningful conversations and providing vital resources, the Care 2 College Conference served as a vital step towards COA's greater participation in empowering foster youth, caregivers, and supporters on their journey toward academic achievement and a brighter future.



COA Annual Community Partner Breakfast took place on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon in the F Building

Highlights from the Annual Community Partner Breakfast and Launch of Mobile CoA Services

The College of Alameda (COA) Annual Community Partner Breakfast took place on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon in the F Building, marking the inauguration of our Mobile COA services. Attended by approximately 30 individuals, including representatives from Alameda Unified School District (AUSD), Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), private and charter high schools, and various community-based organizations such as Oakland Promise, the event underscored the College's commitment to community engagement and student success.

The Partner Breakfast commenced with a warm welcome from Peralta Community College District (PCCD) Chancellor **Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson** and COA Vice President of Student Services **Dr. Mildred Lewis**. The program featured a comprehensive COA Overview Presentation, a thought-provoking Programs & Special Services Panel, and an insightful Student Panel.

The Student Panel, comprising current and former students who continue to contribute significantly to the campus community, shared their experiences and insights. Participants included Associated Students of College of Alameda (ASCOA) President **Natay Myers**, **Antwa Rodriguez**, **Crystal Basanjaav**, **Jeremiah Poti**, **Junaho “Jay” Ma**, and **Sandra Wanjala**, each embodying the spirit of student leadership and engagement.



Mobile CoA services commenced on March 18, 2024, coinciding with College of Alameda's participation in East Bay Higher Education Week

Mobile COA Opens Doors to College for High School Students

Mobile CoA services commenced on March 18, 2024, coinciding with College of Alameda's participation in East Bay Higher Education Week. Enrollment Services Coordinator **Nickey Heredia** and a team of staff and student workers initiated the week by offering application support to graduating seniors at Oakland High School. Students seamlessly submitted their applications while also gaining insights into College of Alameda's programs and resources.

Throughout the week, Nickey and Staff Assistant **Juliana Garcia Uribe** represented College of Alameda at various school sites for Higher Education Week, including Castlemont High School, Leadership Public Schools, Skyline High School, Lighthouse Community Charter School, Oakland High School, and San Lorenzo High School. Over 500 high school students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, have interacted with the team so far this year, seeking information about financial aid, academic programs, admissions, and more.

Recent Mobile COA Tabling and Outreach Events:

March 25: San Leandro High School College Fair

March 26: Skyline High School Summer Opportunities Fair

April 2: Mobile CoA at Alameda Community Learning Center

April 2: Mobile CoA at Alameda High School

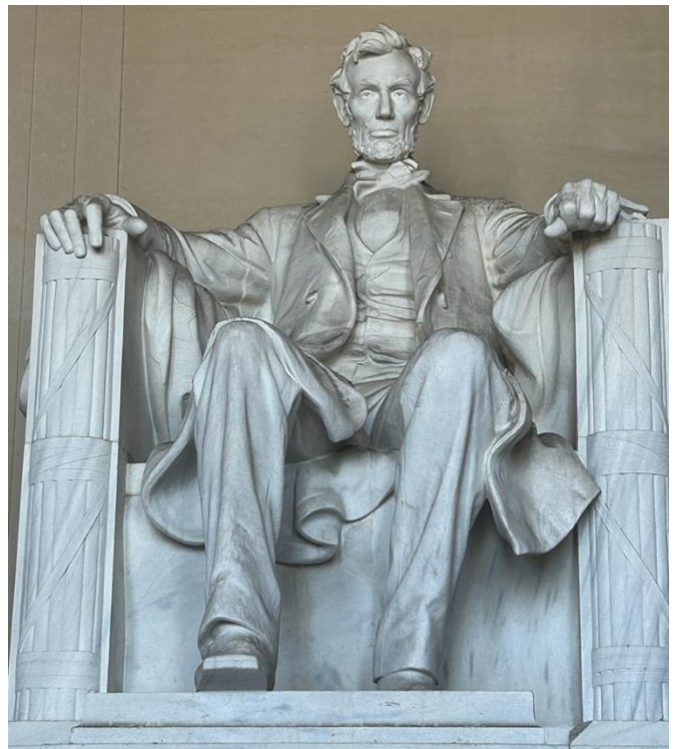


COA team members led students on a tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

COA Students Explore Historic HBCUs and Landmarks

During the week of March 24, 2024, members of the College of Alameda community, including faculty, classified professionals, and administrators, embarked on a transformative journey accompanying students on a tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The tour took students to iconic institutions such as Howard University in Washington DC, Hampton University in Virginia, Bowie State University and Morgan State University in Maryland, and Delaware State University in Delaware. Beyond the academic exploration, students also had the pleasure of visiting significant landmarks, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the White House, the African American Civil War Memorial Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery.

College members participating in the tour included Dean of Counseling & Special Programs **Dr. Shalamon Duke**, Admissions and Records Technician **Chevonn Herbert**, Counselor **Jamar Mears**, Dental Assisting Program Chair **Carla Pegues**, and Senior Clerk to EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, Next UP, and SALAAM Programs **Jeremiah Poti**.



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 Engages Students at 8th Annual Youth Career & Job Fair

At the 8th Annual Youth Career & Job Fair held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Encinal Junior & Senior High School, located at 210 Central Avenue, Alameda, College of Alameda representatives met with a new generation of prospective students. Over 40 community organizations, including local employers, the City of Alameda, other university institutions, military, and trade groups, were among the participating organizations at the event. The College of Alameda Outreach Team, consisting of **Louie Martirez y McFarland**, EOPS, CARE, CalWORKs, Next UP, and SALAAM Programs Project Manager, and **Donna A. Jones**, Career and Workforce Education Division Career Education (CE) Coordinator from the Career, staff the College's information table.

During the fair, College of Alameda team members collaborated with the Alameda Unified School District to jointly present the Peralta Summer Institute Programs. They provided information to students and their families on enrolling as high school students through dual and concurrent enrollment and how to enroll at the College of Alameda in Fall 2024 as first-year community college students. Middle school students from Encinal Junior Jets, Alameda High School, Encinal High School, ASTI, and Island High School attended the event in the afternoon.

ASCOA Hosts Women's History Month Kahoot Game

During Tasty Tuesday on March 19, 2024, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., the Associated Students of College of Alameda (ASCOA) organized an engaging trivia event focused on Women's History using the platform Kahoot. Students participated in answering questions covering a range of topics and learned about significant figures who have influenced Women's History. The top three scorers were rewarded with school swag and other exciting prizes. The event was a success, with enthusiastic student participation showcasing their interest in the subject matter. Kahoot is a game-based learning platform used as educational technology in schools and other educational institutions. It allows users, typically teachers or instructors, to create and host quizzes, discussions, and surveys that participants, usually students, can join using their smartphones, tablets, or computers. Kahoot offers an interactive and engaging way for educators to assess student understanding, reinforce learning, and facilitate group discussions.



Guided Pathways Team Gathers Student Feedback

The Guided Pathways team hosted its second Guided Pathways (GP) Brown Bag Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.

During this session, a panel of four current College of Alameda students shared their experiences. The meeting was held in a Hyflex format, allowing participants to attend either in-person in Room H-153 or online.

Students discussed their personal and career goals, and provided feedback on various aspects of the college. They praised the counseling services, convenient location, friendly staff, commitment to diversity, Tasty Tuesday free lunches, and the campus's ease of navigation.

However, they also highlighted areas for enhancement, including the cafeteria, promotion of campus resources, nighttime security, availability of interpreters for language support, and support for workforce transition.

The Guided Pathways team will use this valuable student input to inform future strategies for enhancing students' experiences at the college.



Dance Department Celebrates Bay Area Dance Week

National Dance Week, established in 1981 to elevate awareness of dance and its cultural significance, sparked the inception of Bay Area Dance Week (BADW) in 1998. As the largest per capita center for dance in the United States, the Bay Area boasts an extensive festival, featuring over 100 dance organizations and artists, including College of Alameda. This celebration engages more than 2,500 artists and draws 20,000 attendees.

Led by Dance Professor **Danny Nguyen**, the COA Dance Department has been a longstanding participant in this prestigious event. This year, Professor Nguyen will host sessions on two Saturdays to promote COA Dance Department classes.

Join us for COA's Dance Week events! Share the links below with your students, family, friends, and fellow dance enthusiasts to register and be part of this uplifting celebration.

Dance Events Details:

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: H Building Lobby

Registration: <https://www.bopsidy.com/e/2634>

Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: H Building Lobby

Registration: <https://www.bopsidy.com/e/2635>



Academic Senate Invites You to the 2024 Emeritus Reception

The College of Alameda Academic Senate cordially invites you to Attend the 2024 Emeritus Reception honoring:

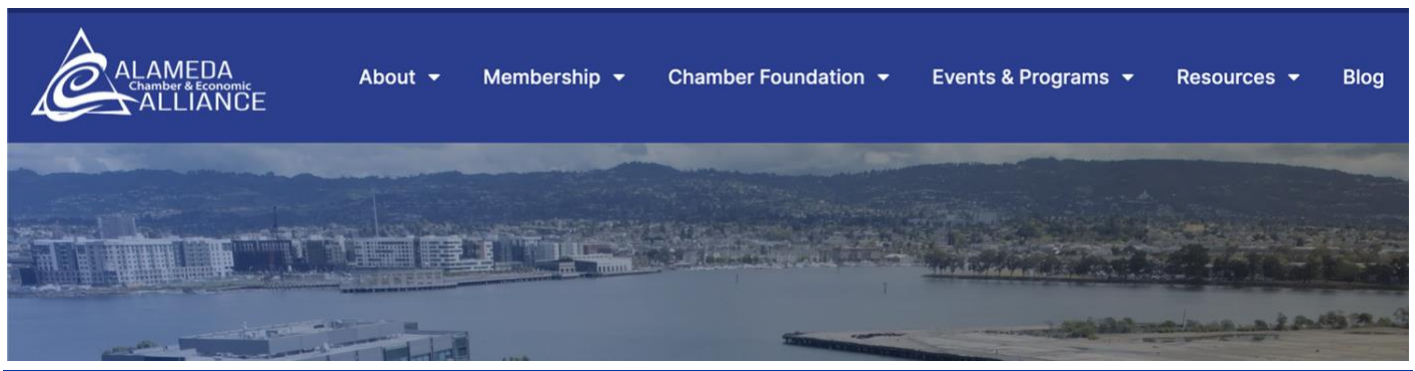
- English Professor **Wanda Sabir**
- Diesel Mechanics Professor **John Taylor**
- Diesel Mechanics Professor **Sylvester Henderson**

Date: Friday, May 10, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: H-Building Lobby

R.S.V.P. no later than May 2, 2024, to cpegues@peralta.edu



College of Alameda Nominated for Alameda Chamber Business Excellence Awards

The Alameda Chamber & Economic Alliance Business Excellence Awards recognize outstanding contributions made by organizations and individuals to the City of Alameda. The winner will be announced during the awards ceremony on April 25, 2024. This nomination reflects the College's exceptional efforts in recent years to actively engage the community through a variety of events, lectures, and activities.

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/>