

2023-2024



Creating Opportunities

Annual Report



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



A Message from the Chancellor

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D.



Creating Opportunities

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District's annual report highlights our collective successes over the past year. Throughout the year we were proudly **creating opportunities**, which underscore the power of connection and education at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges, driven by the tireless dedication of our faculty, classified professionals, and administration.

Nearly 20,000 students attend our colleges annually. With hundreds of programs and majors, both Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges offer students options to transfer or to transition directly to high-wage, in-demand careers. This year, we awarded over 5,200 academic degrees and certificates, and Grossmont College transferred the highest number of students to San Diego State University, while Cuyamaca transferred the highest percentage of students to SDSU.

We had many accomplishments in 2023-2024, including a remarkable 21% increase in enrollment compared to 2022-2023, and a perfect grade of A+ from the San Diego County Taxpayers Association for bond transparency for the second year in a row. At Grossmont College, we celebrated the opening of the new Science, Math and Career Technology Complex, along with The Village, a new student hub that includes student services, community, and culture. Cuyamaca College expanded its partnership with the Mountain Empire Unified School District to bring classes into the community, and was awarded \$1.1M in Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) funds from the State Chancellor's Office to expand programs offering free textbooks. Our Community Engagement Project has connected with over 200 East County community leaders and organizations to showcase and provide pathways to well-paying jobs.

We are honored to play a vital role in East County. We proudly host important community events, including candidate forums, as well as cultural events ranging from the ECHO Chamber concert series at Cuyamaca College to performances by the Theatre Arts department at Grossmont College. This past year, our athletics teams brought home multiple team and individual awards, as well as championship titles. Moreover, our Foundation awarded over \$300,000 in student scholarships, and recognized hundreds of donors and alumni.

We are looking forward to continuing to be innovative in the years ahead. While Propositions V and R have transformed our campuses by providing state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces, our needs are still great. Our plans for continued innovation, coupled with our commitment to student equity and success, establishes a critical foundation for our colleges to continue to be the best educational choice to serve our East County community. It is a privilege to have your support as we continue to create opportunities and transform lives at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges.



Student Demographics | 2023-2024

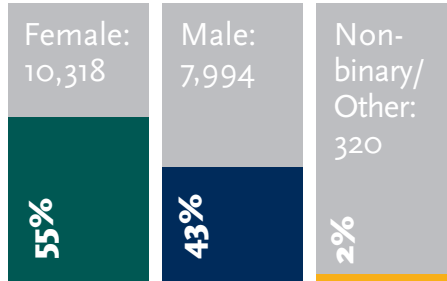
Headcount

Grossmont: **13,680**

Cuyamaca: **8,435**

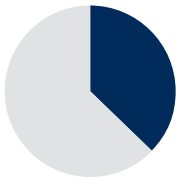
District: 18,632

Gender

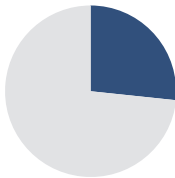


Ethnicity

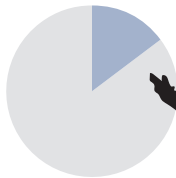
Hispanic/Latino
(6,972) **37.4%**



White
(4,984) **26.8%**



Middle Eastern
(2,783) **14.9%**



Asian/Pacific
Islander
(1,389) **7.5%**



African
American/Black
(1,044) **5.6%**



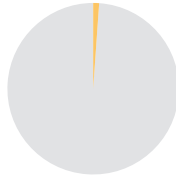
American Indian/
Alaskan Native
(83) **.4%**



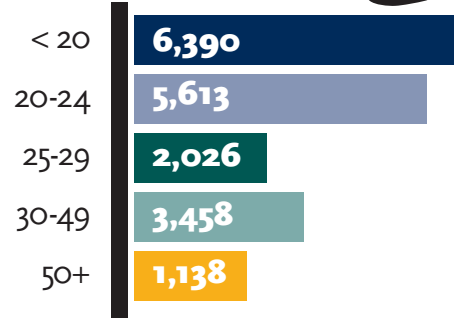
Two or more
(1,143) **6.1%**



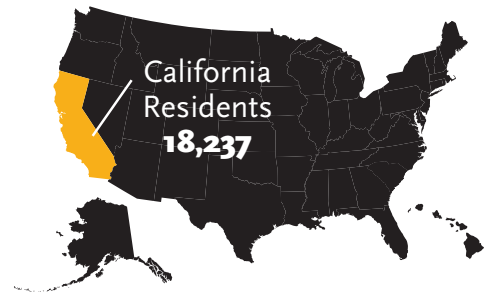
Other/Unknown
(34) **1.3%**



Age



Residency



Non-residents **395**

Top Transfer Schools Districtwide:

SDSU

UC San Diego



UCLA

POINT LOMA
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

District Budget

The District budget consists of several funds according to the guidance of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Budget and Accounting Manual. The main funds are the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Outlay Projects Fund and General Obligation Bond Fund.

The General Fund is the primary operating fund used to cover the full scope of operations - instruction, administration, student services, maintenance and operations, etc. All financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund, are in the General Fund.

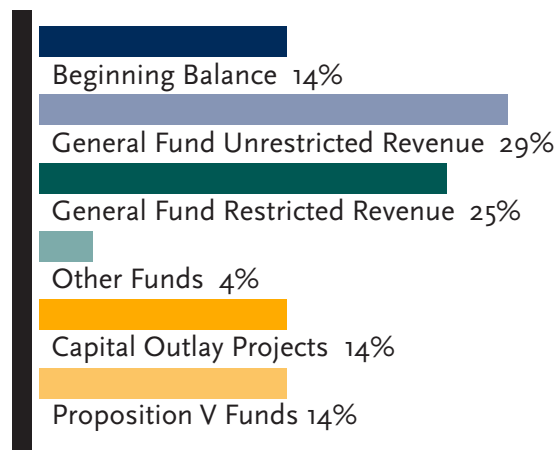
Special Revenue Funds are specific revenue sources whose expenditures are legally restricted. Special Revenue Funds encompass support services that are not directly related to the educational program of the college. Special Revenue Funds consist of Bookstore Fund, and the Child Development Fund.

The Capital Outlay Projects Fund is used for the expenditure of monies for the construction of capital outlay items, state funded capital projects and scheduled maintenance, and special repairs projects.

The General Obligation Bond Fund is from the sale of bonds under Proposition 39, and the related expenditures for construction of projects voted on, and approved by, the local property owners. Monies may only be expended for the purposes authorized by the language of the Proposition 39 Bond voter-approved ballot measure.

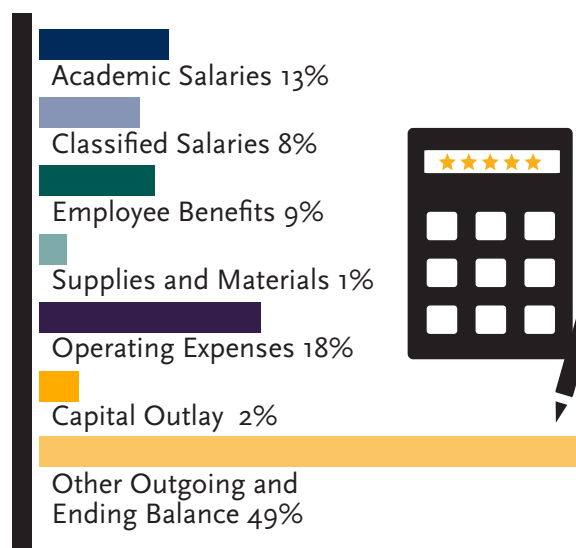
2023-2024 Funds Available:

\$488,187,850



2023-2024 Expenditures & Ending Balances:

\$488,187,850



Christopher Kazanchi

GROSSMONT COLLEGE



“I’ve learned so much from the Grossmont College forensics team and I’ve developed a passion. I’m so fortunate to be at a community college where we’re able to compete in these tournaments.”

Christopher Kazanchi discovered his passion for political science and the law at Grossmont College, and he now has a clear vision for his future. He has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and won a place on the Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Honor Roll. He worked for County Supervisor Joel Anderson and a local law firm, and plans to attend law school.

Gricel Medina

CUYAMACA COLLEGE

“There’s been a great sense of community and support from the staff at Cuyamaca. The counselors call me to follow up, and they ask me if I need anything. I’ve loved that.”

Gricel Medina has faced numerous serious physical and mental health challenges, including a diagnosis of hypothyroidism that created a host of symptoms. She graduated from Cuyamaca College in Spring 2024, and now plans to transfer to San Diego State University to obtain a degree in social work.





Michael Young

CUYAMACA COLLEGE

“I’ve had amazing professors at Cuyamaca College. They’ve been really helpful and really, really inspiring and encouraging.”

Young’s interest in becoming a nurse grew from his experiences with his brother, who has cerebral palsy. Young admired the care and compassion that nurses at Rady Children’s Hospital showed to his brother. After serving in the U.S. Army, Young returned to San Diego, and is now taking prerequisite courses at Cuyamaca College with plans to enroll in the nursing program at Grossmont College.

Marfen Najeeb

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

“What I’ve liked the most about my experience at Grossmont College is the supportive and inclusive environment. The faculty and staff genuinely care about me. They are always willing to help.”

Marfen Najeeb arrived with his family in the United States when he was seven years old after fleeing Iraq. Najeeb wants to work as a graphic artist, after developing a strong foundation in design principles, visual communication and digital tools at Grossmont College.



Debbie Seracini

CUYAMACA COLLEGE



“The instructors are really interested in you, and for you to be successful. You weren’t just another face walking in and out the door.”

After she retired from a job at the San Diego Air & Space Museum, Debbie Seracini decided to return to her love of working with plants and designing gardens. Taking one class each semester, Seracini graduated from Cuyamaca College in Spring 2024 with an associate degree in landscape architecture.

Cuyamaca College

Highlights 2023-2024



Jessica Robinson, Ed.D.
President



In partnership with Kumeyaay Community College, Cuyamaca College celebrated the Kumeyaay New Year (1). Falling on the autumnal equinox, it signals the end of the piñon nut gathering season and the start of the acorn gathering season. About 300 people attended the celebration that was held in the Kumeyaay Village and Garden.

- Cuyamaca College hosted the 7th Annual Women in Water event, with the theme of “Empowering the Next Generation of Women.” The event had 212 participants from 43 agencies, companies and educational institutions, with attendance up 28% from the previous year.
- Cuyamaca College, one of only two colleges in the region, was selected for a unique 5-year funding opportunity from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office: The Homelessness and Housing Insecurity Program (HHIP). HHIP will provide much needed housing assistance to students who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Cuyamaca College will work in partnership with the local non-profit Home Start of El Cajon to provide seamless support for students experiencing homelessness to secure long-term, permanent housing in the form of rapid rehousing, as well as homelessness prevention services in the form of emergency financial rental assistance for those experiencing housing insecurity. This program will augment the college’s highly successful and innovative bridge housing services that can place students who are experiencing homelessness into a hotel for days or weeks so they can focus on their success in college.

Cuyamaca College received a second \$300,000 grant from the College Futures Foundation in October 2023 to expand equity-minded dual enrollment efforts and bring the promise of a college education to an even greater number of East County high school students.

Military Times magazine has ranked Cuyamaca College 82nd in the nation as Best for Vets: Colleges and 215th as Best for Vets: Employers. Cuyamaca College was the only San Diego County college or university in the top 100. This is the second consecutive year that Cuyamaca College has been recognized by the magazine as a Best College for Veterans.

- The Queer Student Center held its grand opening **(2)** November 14. The center is open daily to provide a welcoming space and support for the LGBTQ+ community, including a food pantry, space for training and workshops, and a monthly free legal name change clinic for students who do not identify with the name and/or gender they were given at birth.
- Cuyamaca College expanded its six-year partnership with the Mountain Empire Unified School District to offer English language and child development classes to residents of rural East County. Since 2018, Mountain Empire High School students have been able to take college-level English as a Second Language classes. Cuyamaca College also began offering college-level child development and ESL classes to residents in Campo and Potrero.



- Cuyamaca College student Claudette Clark **(3)** won the Board of Governors Leadership Award from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors – the second year in a row that a Cuyamaca College student has been named a recipient. The award honors students statewide who have demonstrated a high level of commitment to student leadership at their campus.
- Several exceptional women were recognized at this year’s American Association for Women in Community Colleges Symposium, including Cuyamaca student Claudette Clark **(3)**, classified professional Rebecca Emadian, faculty member Annalinda Arroyo, and administrator Dr. Sade Burrell.



- Cuyamaca College, under the leadership of the Open Education Resource (OER) Faculty Coordinator, Josue Franco, was awarded \$1.1M in Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) funds from the State Chancellor’s Office. The funding will provide resources for 11 programs that seek to be a 100% ZTC. OER and ZTC efforts break down barriers for students by minimizing cost and providing access.
- Cuyamaca College was the venue for one of the final debates for County Supervisor candidates Monica Montgomery-Steppe and Amy Reichert **(4)**. The forum, held in partnership with the Grossmont Mt. Helix Improvement Association and the Casa de Oro Alliance, focused on East County issues such as mental health services, land use, and climate action. The debate was moderated by the League of Women Voters.



Grossmont College

Highlights 2023-2024



Denise Whisenhunt, J.D.
President

Grossmont College CalWORKS held a Success Series **(1)** event February 22 to let a growing number of Afghani students know they are welcome at the campus. The event featured comments by Monir Masoud, Director of Community College Pathways at National University. He told of his journey from Afghanistan to the United States via the Netherlands, and of his educational journey toward earning a doctorate in education.



■ Grossmont College art students **(2 & 3)** descended on the intersection of University Avenue and Rolando Boulevard to paint utility boxes as part of a January Intersession art class.

■ Grossmont College introduced a unique and transformative space on the second floor of the college's Tech Mall, called The Village. The Village is a student hub that includes student services, community, and culture. It also brings together specialized counseling programs in one shared space. The Village includes the Grossmont College departments A2MEND, Dream Center, Justice Scholars, Umoja, TRIO/EOC, Puente, and success coaches. It also includes community partnerships such as Jewish Family Services, which provides legal services to students.

Grossmont College was named a Champion of Higher Education for Excellence in Transfer by the Campaign for College Opportunity. Grossmont College is one of 27 California Community Colleges and California State University (CSU) campuses recognized for leading the way to simplify transfer for students and implementing the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), an instrumental pathway that streamlines the transfer process from a California Community College to a CSU.



4



5



6

■ More than 100 employers participated in Grossmont College's 45th annual Career Expo (4, 5 & 6) on November 2. A diverse list of employers attended the event, ranging from the Cajon Valley Union School District to the Hyatt Regency La Jolla. Attendees learned about Grossmont College's career and workforce programs and had their photograph taken by a college photographer.

■ Grossmont College held their 3rd Annual Refugee Job Fair (7) that attracted more than 40 employers. The free event was focused on finding new careers for refugees, Dreamers, international students and community members.



7



Commencement Ceremonies



In 2024, the District celebrated over 2,100 graduates from our two colleges, who earned more than 5,200 degrees and certificates, with over 900 participating in our Commencement Ceremonies.





Jessica Lourdes Bahena

CUYAMACA COLLEGE STUDENT SPEAKER

Jessica Lourdes Bahena, a resident of Rancho San Diego, earned associate degrees in Ethnic Studies, History, Humanities & Fine Arts, and Social & Behavioral Sciences. Bahena credits two programs for helping her succeed: EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) and CalWORKS. While raising her two children, she worked part-time at the Cuyamaca Student Affairs Center, and launched a student group called Brown Students United to bring students of color together. Bahena, 32, will attend San Diego State University, where she plans to major in history and Chicano Studies. She aspires to earn a master's degree and one day return to Cuyamaca College to teach history.

Zachary Mass

GROSSMONT COLLEGE STUDENT SPEAKER

Zachary Mass, who grew up in the Bay Area town of San Ramon, enjoyed attending Grossmont College, and he liked the idea of a community college known as “Harvard on the Hill.” He worked hard to overcome previous challenges to get where he is today. Mass, a communication major, praised his Grossmont instructors, supportive professors and counselors for contributing to his success. While at Grossmont, Mass was active in the Radio Club, and served as an announcer at Grossmont College sports events. He will transfer to San Diego State University to earn a bachelor's degree in communication, and hopes to have a career in sports broadcasting.



Innovation Continues Under Proposition V



New home for Veterans and STEM students opens at Grossmont College

Grossmont College celebrated the opening of the Science, Math & Career Tech Complex, also known as Building 36. The building provides a new home for the Grossmont College's Veterans Resource Center, along with classrooms, tutoring and resources for math and science students.

The 61,390-square-foot building houses the Grossmont College math, earth science, and anthropology classrooms, along with a STEM tutoring center and the Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program. MESA supports students in STEM by providing resources including tutoring, counseling, and a study center. The Veterans Resource Center serves as a centralized home for veteran services at Grossmont College, serving active duty, reserve service members, veterans and their families.

An A+ District

The District was one of only 6 out of 26 school districts in the 2023 School District Transparency Report Card to receive a perfect score from the nonprofit organization that promotes accountable and efficient government. The District also received a top grade in 2022, and near-perfect records the previous two years.



East County voters approved the District's Proposition V bond measure in 2012. Bond funds have enabled the District to make major upgrades at the Grossmont and Cuyamaca college campuses, thanks to the taxpayers in East County. Completed projects at Grossmont College include the Performing and Visual Arts Center and a renovation of the Science, Math & Career Technology complex. At Cuyamaca College, a new Student Services building was constructed, along with a renovation of the Ornamental Horticultural Complex.

Recognizing Employee Excellence

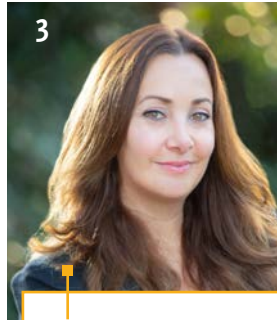
The Chancellor and Classified Senate Awards

recognize outstanding contributions made by exceptional classified professionals. The theme of the 2023-2024 award was The GCCCD Spirit Award. Awardees were selected based upon their positive attitude, efforts at making students' educational paths more rewarding, and providing an inspirational example for their colleagues. Those recognized for their exemplary service, were:

Hiam Abdulahad (1), Student Services Assistant, DSPS at Cuyamaca College.
MaryAnn Landry (2), Administrative Assistant to the ESBS dean at Grossmont College.
Chemene Chodur*, Information Systems Business Analyst in the District's Information Services.



*Not Pictured



The 2023-2024 **League Excellence Awards from the League for Innovation in the Community College** were given to Cuyamaca College Biology Instructor **Michelle Garcia (3)**, Cuyamaca College Arabic Instructor **Hana Kassas (4)**, and **Gregg Robinson (5)**, retired Sociology Instructor at Grossmont College.

■ The **Cuyamaca College President's Outstanding Leadership and Service Award for Classified Professionals** was given to **Rafael Ayala**, Research and Planning Analyst, and **Derek Bertram**, Specialty Lab Tech III in the Music Department.

■ **Marianna Daquino (6)**, Culinary Arts Instructor at Grossmont College, has been featured in numerous television cooking shows, including "The Big Bake," the Food Network's "Holiday Wars" and "Sugar Rush."



■ **Chancellor Lynn Ceresino Neault (7)** was honored as the **San Diego East County Chamber's Business and Education Person of the Year for 2023**.

Supporting our Community

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is proud to be a part of the East County community. One of the ways that the District creates opportunities for students is by partnering with local businesses and organizations to provide the education most needed to boost the economy.

Pathways to Higher Education

The District collaborates with school districts in the region through our Dual enrollment program. Participation in dual enrollment provides students with the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously, thus decreasing students' time to complete a college degree and saving tuition costs. Dual enrollment college classes are offered to students in the following schools and districts:

- Grossmont Union High School District
- Mountain Empire Unified School District
- Health Sciences High and Middle College
- Julian Charter School
- The Learning Choice Academy
- River Valley Charter School
- Helix Charter High School
- Steel Canyon High School

Community Engagement Project



The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District's Community Engagement Project launched in the fall of 2022. Through our Special Projects Coordinator, we engaged over 200 community leaders and organizations to gather insights on the needs of adult learners and low-wage workers. Based on this feedback, we developed the "From Here to Career" project, which showcases our quick pathways to well-paying jobs, comprehensive support services, and assistance for English learners. The District has since participated in over 60 community events to showcase "From Here to Career," engaging program and support staff at both colleges and Adult Education.

In the spring of 2024, we expanded the project's focus to address the needs our growing community of new Americans from Afghanistan, the Middle East, Latin America, and beyond. Both colleges partnered with K-8 schools and service organizations to launch seven off-campus ESL classes for the summer and fall of 2024.

"From Here to Career" is raising awareness of our colleges within the broader community. We welcomed our new partners to campus for celebrations, tours, a high school leadership program, and collaborative initiatives. These partnerships are helping the District build pathways for adult learners, enhance support for students, strengthen connections with the community, and collectively address new challenges and opportunities.

Community Partnerships

Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges also have advisory boards to guide and enhance their career education programs. The boards, in fields ranging from Automotive Technology to Programmable Logic Controllers, are comprised of industry professionals to offer insights into workforce trends, skills requirements, and emerging technologies.

For example, Cuyamaca College received a regional sector grant for the purchase of two Ford Mustangs and two Chevy Bolt electric vehicles, chargers, and tools for use in high-demand electric vehicle mechanic training. Ford Motor Company also donated two gas-fueled trucks to assist in the College's Ford Asset Degree Training program. Grossmont College's partnership with Quality Controlled Manufacturing, Inc. (QCMI) will make a significant impact in the manufacturing industry in East County. Through the QCMI program, which places Grossmont College students into an accelerated training series, students will gain industry skills such as computer numerical control machines, Six Sigma, shop theory, safety training, mathematics, blueprints, and inspection.



Community Events: Manufacturing EXPO

Every year, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District partners with the East County Economic Development Council to host the annual East County Manufacturing Expo in collaboration with the national *Creators Wanted* campaign. The 2023 event, held at Grossmont College, showcased the theme, "Explore, Create, and Innovate - What Does A Future In Manufacturing Look Like?" which brought together industry leaders, educators, and aspiring creators. Highlights included thousands of attendees, with over five hundred high school students from various schools throughout San Diego County. The event featured prominent local manufacturers, and provided education and resources for attendees.



Athletics at Cuyamaca



Cuyamaca College Coyotes

Cuyamaca College athletics provide all potential student athletes opportunities to master advanced physical skills, enjoy team participation, and gain benefits of vigorous physical competition. Student athletes gain rewards from playing sports that transfer to life after college, such as an appreciation for social diversity, increased leadership abilities, and the achievement of success through hard work. All coaches and staff support academic achievement and athletic performance by providing a student-centered campus, building school spirit and encouraging the involvement of families, friends and the community.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

MEN'S SOCCER: PCAC Champions; State Finalist **(1)**; Gerardo Ambriz PCAC MVP; Coach Brian Hiatt-Aleu PCAC Coach of the Year.

GOLF: The Men's Golf team **(2)** were Orange Empire Conference Champions in Spring 2024, and won 6th Place in the State. Men's Golf Coach John Klein **(2)** was named OEC Coach of the Year. Women's Golf freshman Kiana Glossner **(3)** was named Orange Empire Conference (OEC) Player of the Year in the fall of 2023.

TRACK & FIELD: Both Women's teams earned PCAC 2nd Place. Four athletes placed at 3C2A State Championships: Brinley Campbell **(4)** 3rd in 100m hurdles and 9th in 400m hurdles; Deja Thomas 5th in 400m; Rianna Romasoc 7th in Pole Vault; Arthur 'AZ' Simpson 6th in men's long jump.

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY: 16th Place State **(5)**.

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY: 13th Place State.



& Grossmont College

Grossmont College Griffins



Athletics at Grossmont College is a form of education through intense physical training, activities, and competition, all of which are with full regard to values of fair play, teamwork, human growth and physical development. Athletics is a facet of the total educational programs offered at Grossmont College, and as such the Athletic Department strives for the development of students as responsible and contributing members of our community and global society.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

WOMEN'S INDOOR VOLLEYBALL: PCAC Undefeated 16-0 champions (6), with an overall record of 27-2. It was the 4th consecutive year the team competed in the state championship tournament. The team was the 3C2A Scholar Team of the Year, and it finished 3rd place overall in the 3C2A and 2nd in SoCal. Chelsee Trendler PCAC MVP & 3C2A All-Southern California team; Kate Beezer 3C2A All-State team; Brooke Callahan PCAC Coach of the Year.

SWIMMING: The Men's team (7) and the Women's team (8) were both 2024 PCAC Champions; Camille Seiley Female PCAC swimmer of the year; Greyson Davis Co-PCAC Swimmer of the Year and CCCAA State (Male) Swimmer of the Year; Griffin swimmers won First Place at the State Championships in Women's 50 free, Men's 200 back, and 200 IM. Coach Carli Willis (9) PCAC 2024 Men's Coach of the Year.

SOFTBALL: (10) Gracie Johnston Pitcher of the Week for 3C2A on 2/28/24; Destiny Burroughs, Kate Manes, and Dayzee Wong PCAC 2nd All-Conference Team; Gracie Johnston and Kylee Knight PCAC Honorable Mentions; Dayzee Wong transferred to Ottawa University of Arizona – the first four-year transfer for new head Coach Craig Fuentes.



The 2023-2024 Governing Board



Governing Board in Sacramento, CA, 2024



Grossmont College Pride Month Flag Raising Ceremony



2023-2024 Student Trustees



42nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Board of Trustees serve as elected representatives of the community, and support the mission, vision, and values of the District and the colleges. The Board members are actively engaged in District, college and community events, and are dedicated to advocating for accessible and affordable education options for students. They strive to eliminate equity gaps to improve student access and success, and seek to transform lives through high-quality educational programs and services that meet the needs of our diverse communities.

Debbie Justeson
BOARD PRESIDENT

Julie Schorr
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Elena Adams
BOARD CLERK

Brad Monroe
BOARD MEMBER

Desiree "Desi" Klaar
BOARD MEMBER

Cesar Nuñez
STUDENT TRUSTEE, GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Courtney Etnyre
STUDENT TRUSTEE, CUYAMACA COLLEGE

Alumni Success Stories

Dr. Kevin Kinyanjui

GROSSMONT COLLEGE ALUMNUS



As a teen, Kevin Kinyanjui emigrated from Kenya to San Diego with his single mother, and first enrolled in classes in City Heights, before he found Grossmont College. He took three buses daily to get from San Diego to the campus in El Cajon. Kinyanjui persevered, and after four

years, transferred to UC San Diego to major in human biology. He completed medical school at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, and finished his residency at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He now works at the Cleveland Clinic's Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach, as a hospitalist.

“If somebody asked me, ‘What was the most important education you had?’ It’s when I went to community college. Because that’s when I did not believe in myself, and I didn’t think I could do anything. After completing, that’s when I believed in myself.”

“Coming back to school a little bit older and as a veteran has helped me truly appreciate this experience. It turns out I really enjoy this environment and being in academia — it’s been phenomenal.”

Shadoe Neri-Dewitt

CUYAMACA COLLEGE ALUMNUS



After serving in the Navy as a nuclear engineer, Shadoe Neri-Dewitt enrolled at Cuyamaca College, and with the help of a counselor and his wife, steered toward transferring to UC Santa Barbara to pursue psychology. He is currently on track to earn a B.S. in Psychological and Brain Sciences, with the goal of giving back to the Veterans’ community. Neri-Dewitt plans to pursue a Ph.D., and his ultimate goal is to develop new treatments for addiction and depression.



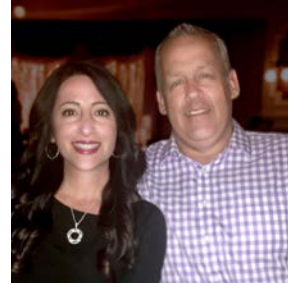
The Foundation for
Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges

The mission of the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges is to raise awareness and financial resources for our two colleges and the students we serve. Our vision – to make dreams possible.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Bessy and Marty Glaske

Bessy and Marty Glaske want to get the word out: Grossmont & Cuyamaca colleges are hidden gems. The couple, who support student scholarships in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, believe passionately that community colleges help people build lives with purpose and meaning.



"We have been so blessed in our lives that giving back is important to us," they said. "There are so many people out there who need a hand up versus a handout, and the different organizations we've participated in provide those opportunities."

Bassma "Bessy" Glaske, who was born in Bahrain and came to the United States when she was nine years old, serves on the Board of Directors for The Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges. For more than three decades, she worked in the private corrections industry helping people who served their sentences re-enter society. Marty was born and raised in Oregon and relocated to San Diego to serve in the Navy. He has worked in the Construction Management industry in San Diego for over 30 years, primarily focused on educational facilities.

"We're super excited about being involved with organizations that offer growth, advancement, and opportunities for people who may not want to go immediately to a four-year college," said Marty, who is the Senior Vice President of Client Development for the consulting firm, GAFCON. The Glaskes feel strongly that young people should know about the opportunities that community colleges offer - and early.

"In my mind, the systemic change would have to be at a high school level, where it is taught by counselors, teachers, and staff that it is just as important if you're going to community college as it is if you're going to a four-year university," Bessy said. "There are multiple pathways to success."

"Community colleges are a fantastic option to four-year institutions," Bessy added. "In fact, I would say they are the foundation of higher education because they are accessible and inclusive to everyone."



For a list of the generous donors to the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges, please scan this QR code



LEGACY CIRCLE CHAMPION:

Robert Hajosy, M.D. and the entire Hajosy family

My relationship with the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges (FGCC) has been long-standing. Years ago, their staff assisted us in setting up a memorial fund in the name of my deceased son, Matt, who had been a student in the Grossmont College nursing program when he died. We wanted it to be perpetual, as well as designed to carry on his dedication to helping others in crisis. Together we set up an endowment for matriculating students who come upon urgent, unexpected needs. Over the years, the endowment has helped many grateful students and continually offers us a tangible way to remember and honor Matt.

The wonderful people at FGCC have always shown us compassion, empathy, and gratitude, and the students they help often express their gratitude to our family in writing. The steadfast stewardship of this endowment has made this a successful and most meaningful endeavor that continues to turn a great tragedy into a source of joy and meaning for our family. I recommend to anyone to let the FGCC assist them in creating an endowment or any type of legacy gift that would serve not only the colleges and our community, but would also be most meaningful to them.

“Our community colleges work hard to offer challenge and opportunity to students so that they can be successful and productive members of our community.”



Legacy Circle Champions

We are honored to recognize our Legacy Circle Champions, helping to ensure lasting support for the students and programs at Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges. Legacy Circle Champions listed below have generously provided or pledged gifts through a bequest in a trust or will, an endowed fund, or a beneficiary gift.

- Janet Arnold
- Maggie Barnett
- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Mary Barton
- Virginia Berger
- California Coast Credit Union
- Dale Oliver and Georgella Jean Campbell*
- Professor Ted Chandler*
- Sam and Kris Ciccati
- Dahlberg Family Trust
- Brad Daluiso
- Roger Frey
- Bill & Judy Garrett
- GCCCD Retiree Network
- Ginger Lee Navarro*
- Grossmont Healthcare District
- Robert Hajosy
- Nancy Jennings
- Al and Carol Kadhum*
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- Matthew H. Dietschman and Marion C. Dietschman Education Fund*
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- Rice Family Foundation
- Wendy J. Roemer
- Barbara L. Roper
- Tom & Rosemarie Scanlan
- The Tiglio Family
- Lowell Ward
- The William F. Courtney Family Foundation
- Wong Family Foundation

**In memoriam*

To learn more, get involved, or give, please visit foundation.gcccd.edu



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