

HOWLER

COYOTE

NOVEMBER 2015

CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PTKHA: Biological Sex vs. Gender Identity Roundtable



Phi Theta Kappa Honors in Action (PTKHA) at Cerro Coso extended a special invitation to the community to participate in a roundtable discussion on Biological Sex vs. Gender Identity on Wednesday, September 30th, in the Cerro Coso Gym. Phi Theta Kappa officers researched the subject to gain a greater perspective about issues regarding sex and gender, both locally and globally, presented part of their findings, and were joined by guest speakers, Dr. Sarah King, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, and Dr. Claudia Sellers, Professor of Biology. The Phi Theta Kappa Honors in Action program is designed to engage honor students in actions that foster student success. Participation in the program contributes to personal, academic, and career development and affords students the leadership and service-learning opportunities that have an impact on their campus and community. The goal is to create awareness of the importance of seeking out multiple perspectives to augment understanding of a real-world, complex, interdisciplinary topic and to improve decision making, demonstrate analytical and critical thinking skills to draw research conclusions, and initiate real-world problem-solving by developing an in-depth, action-oriented solution to make a difference for a challenge related to an honors study topic. An estimated 170 community members, students, and staff attended, providing valuable input and feedback. A FREE dinner was catered by Rose Fusco. **PTKHA...leading the way.**

Lily Nelson to Serve as KCCD Student Trustee



Cerro Coso Community College announced the appointment of Lily Nelson to serve as student trustee to the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees for the 2015-2016 academic year. She will replace student trustee Mr. Alex Dominguez from Bakersfield College whose term expired in June. As the student representative to the KCCD Board of Trustees, Ms. Nelson is responsible for bringing an enhanced student perspective to the Board, representing students from all three colleges within the district. Ms. Nelson is a full-time sophomore majoring in general education at Cerro Coso's Ridgecrest Campus, and is a student worker for Access Programs. Understanding that student engagement is vital to success, Ms. Nelson participates in student activities to build community within the college. "Extracurricular activities in college are as important as academics," she stated. "Getting involved in student activities on campus are a great way to make new friends with similar interests and build leadership skills that you can take with you anywhere," concluded Nelson. "So far it has been a great experience." Ms. Nelson hopes to transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles, (UCLA) to complete her education with future plans of becoming an elementary school teacher. **Cerro Coso congratulates Lily on her appointment!**

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Lentz and Ramos Set the Bar High



(L to R) Mike McNair, CTE Dean, presents student Pricilla Lentz with her award for Top Academics in the Law Enforcement Academy.

Students Pricilla Lentz and Roberto Ramos received top honors for their achievements in the Level II and Level III Law Enforcement Academy at Cerro Coso's Ridgecrest Campus. The Top Academics Award is presented to the student who earns the highest academic average. Lentz received the award for her achievements in both levels. Ramos received the Top Shot-Best on Range Award, given in recognition of outstanding marksmanship and the class's highest ranking in firearms training through marksmanship, safety, and tactical proficiency in both levels. Students in the Modular II and III Academy receive their post certificates that make them eligible



(L to R) Law Enforcement Academy Director and Faculty Chair Jarrod Bowen and Fire Arms Instructor Marty Dorrell present student Roberto Ramos with an award for Top Shot-Best on Range in the Law Enforcement Academy.

to be Level II and III Reservists upon successful completion. The Level III Academy also fulfills the PC 832 Arrest and Firearms requirement. The Modular Academy at the college is a rigorous program of study and a certified California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy offered in a three-tiered format beginning with Level III. **Congratulations to Lentz and Ramos for leading by example!**



Simmons Product of Community College

New Educational Advisor at the Ridgecrest Campus Blaine Simmons believes strongly in the mission of community colleges. "If someone had told me after I graduated from high school I would go to college and eventually earn my Master's Degree,

I would have thought they had lost their mind," said Simmons. "At first it felt like a really long road, but what students don't understand is how fast it all goes by," he continued. "It's a challenge balancing school, work, and family. But, I'm proof it can be done, and I want to be a mentor and strong presence in the lives of other community college students." Simmons grew up in Corona, California, and completed his Associate of Arts Degree at Riverside City College. He has worked and interned for a number of California State community colleges, including: El Camino College, Los Angeles Community College District, Long Beach City College, and Santa Ana College. An avid snowboarder, Simmons is new to Ridgecrest and loves being surrounded by the various mountain ranges that offer great snowboarding opportunities. He first heard about Cerro Coso while snowboarding in Mammoth and thought it would be great to work at a community college so close to the mountain. How ironic that he replaces Kim Blackwell who relocated to Bishop to serve as an Educational Advisor for the college's Mammoth Lakes and Bishop campuses. Simmons loves all things Volkswagen, "It may be a little car," he says of his VW Rabbit, "but it's filled with big ideas, big performance, and big possibilities. Just like community colleges," he said with a grin. Simmons holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from California State University Northridge, a Master's in Guidance and Counseling from Loyola Marymount University, and is a member of the Gamma Zeta Alpha Fraternity Inc. **Cerro Coso WELCOMES Blaine!**

ESCC Lunch & Learn: Tribal Nations

On Tuesday, October 27th, Topah Spoonhunter, Assistant Tribal Administrator, Bishop Paiute Tribe, presented at ESCC's Lunch & Learn. Mr. Spoonhunter, an enrolled member of the Northern Arapahoe Tribe, provided ESCC faculty, staff, and students a better understanding of the unique political status of Native American people. Mr. Spoonhunter, who has a background in mathematics, science, and liberal arts and who earned a Bachelor's degree in business administration, has extensive experience working with Indian Tribes and tribal organizations throughout the western United States. Some of the programs and organizations he has worked with include the Indian Child Welfare Act, Tribal Economic Development, Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Tribal Youth Programs, Indian Health Services, and Indian Education Programs. His hour-long presentation covered the history and terminology of Tribal Nations, the history of the "Indian Problem," and tribal sovereignty. **ESCC is eagerly awaiting Mr. Spoonhunter's next presentation on Native Ways of Knowing and Cultural Differences.**



KRV Great Pumpkin

The Student Government and Art C131 (Painting I) class teamed up to create a "Great Pumpkin" challenge at the KRV Campus. Students were beseeched to guess the weight of the masterpiece during the week of Ghoulish Halloween festivities. The painting classes created the work of art on the giant pumpkin canvas and smaller pumpkins were decorated by students during a pumpkin decorating contest. A fun and educational

competition, the challenge featured the creativity and talent of Cerro Coso students. Who guessed the correct weight? Check back next month to see how much this great pumpkin weighs and who won the competition. **The Great Pumpkin is Coming!**

Picture Yourself at the Fair

Picture Yourself at the Fair was the theme for this year's Desert Empire Fair, and Cerro Coso was there to get swept away in the atmosphere or fun and exhilaration. An iconic piece of Americana with a rich history stretching back over several centuries, people embrace local fairs as an opportunity to set the rest of life aside to enjoy the sights, sounds, and feelings that combine to create an experience that is unquestionably unique, while at the same time timeless and familiar. You can feel the vibe as volunteers work to ready for opening day. Four days, 48 employees and students, and more than 111 volunteer hours is what it took to staff the college's booth at this year's fair, October 22 –25, 2015. The DEF is an annual showcase of people's creativity and artistry and provides the college with a unique opportunity to interact with the community in a dynamic and exciting environment and share the many valuable resources the college offers. **Cerro Coso...enjoying the thrill of it all at the local fair!**



L to R: Director of Nursing Annette Hodgins, Paralegal Instructor Tony Damiano, PE Instructor Tom Heck, History Instructor Matt Jones, and English Instructor Matt Crow staff the college booth at the fair.

Coyotes Rally for a Cure



Once again Cerro Coso students, staff, faculty, and administrators joined in the fight against cancer to celebrate more birthdays by participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event hosted by the college October 3-4, 2015. The fun-filled, overnight event mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones, and raise money for the fight against cancer. Leading the charge for Cerro Coso's teams this year were Nikki Gardepe, Betty Mintz-Jones, and Phi Theta Kappa Officers. College fundraising efforts raised more than \$1,400 towards the battle to eliminate cancer as a major health threat. Cancer affects all of us, whether you're a child, parent, sibling, friend, coworker, doctor, or patient. More than one million people in the United States get the dreaded disease each year. Cancer can be life altering, but doesn't have to be defining. **There is a 'can' in cancer and Cerro Coso believes we CAN beat it! Coyotes for a Cure.**

Doing Rural Right

Dr. Corey Marvin, Vice President, Academic Affairs, Cerro Coso Community College (CCCC), Heather Ostash, Vice President, Student Services, CCCC, and Val Martinez Garcia Jr., Vice President, Student Services, Porterville College, presented on best practices for "Doing Rural Right" at the Rural Community College Alliance Conference in September. Though serving very different communities and with differing infrastructure and modes of delivery, both colleges have taken a similar approach in addressing student success and achievement gaps in the context of the challenges facing small, rural community colleges. Both colleges shared their approaches and strategies for success, which included: Achieving the Dream participation, adoption of the Educational Advisory Board "Navigator" tool, a variety of new communication and engagement strategies, and response to the legislative mandates in California for the Student Success and Support of Student Equity Programs. The mission of the Rural Community College Alliance is to advance rural America through an active program of advocacy, convening stakeholders, and leveraging resources, and as a clearinghouse for best practices and research. At present, there are no federal programs that specifically cite rural community colleges in statute. Addressing the invisibility of rural community colleges in policymaking circles is a major reason for our organization to exist.



Bopp Not New to KRV Campus



New Learning Center Technician Heather Bopp is a familiar face around the Kern River Valley (KRV) Lake Isabella Campus. A current student, Bopp will graduate from the college in May of 2016 with an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts - Arts and Humanities. She has been performing clerical work as a student at the KRV Campus under a state funded work experience program since 2013. Bopp says working on campus as a student helped her keep her focus on academics as a priority, enhanced her education with real world experience, and kept her engaged with the campus community. She loves the encouraging and supportive environment at Cerro Coso's KRV Campus and the positive impact the college has on the local community. Her favorite part of her new job is the one-on-one contact with students. "I'm excited to be a permanent part of the team and a positive influence on students" she said. A native of Granada Hills in the San Fernando Valley, Bopp has had occasion to live in Texas, Tennessee, and Nevada before landing in Lake Isabella in 2012 to be closer to her parents. She has three daughters, identical twins Paige and Shelby (7) and Jean (10). Together they enjoy Western and English horseback riding, a hobby that consumes most of their spare time. Eventually, Bopp hopes to complete her Bachelor's Degree but is currently undecided on a major. The Learning Assistance Center and Learning Resource Center on campus provide valuable support services for students enrolled in academic and vocational courses. **Cerro Coso congratulates Heather on her new position at the college.**

Trio Represent Cerro Coso at Bay Area Conference

Cerro Coso Librarian Julie Cornett, English Instructor Melanie Jeffrey, and Director of Distance of Education Rebecca Pang gave an encompassing presentation entitled "We're All in This Together: A Holistic Approach to Building Highly Supportive and Engaging Online Developmental Education Courses" at the 2015 Strengthening Student Success conference in October. Pang shared the work her



(L to r) Librarian Julie Cornett, English Instructor Melanie Jeffrey, and Director of Distance of Education Rebecca Pang presented at the 2015 Strengthening Student Success conference.

department has done in the areas of uniform course templates, professional development, and online student preparedness. Cornett presented on the Embedded Librarian program as a key model for integrating student supports and eCollections into online classes. Jeffrey gave participants a tour of her online English 40 course, touching on best practices of online teaching such as creating welcoming environments, scaffolding course content, contextualizing learning, and backward design. Over 25 participants attended the lively session and meaningful discussion ensued. Jeffrey noted that it is a great time for Cerro Coso faculty to share out the great work our college has done with online teaching and learning at conferences because of the statewide Online Education Initiatives taking community colleges by storm! **Innovation in education.**

Transfer Awareness Month



of an ongoing effort to help students interested in transferring to four-year colleges and universities. The Transfer Center is available to assist students in making that transition to a four-year college/university. Among the many services available to students are: CSU/UC application workshops, on-campus visits by university representatives, visits to university campuses, and articulation information and agreements with colleges/universities.

Transfer Awareness Month = Ready, Set, Transfer.

It's that time of year when community college students turn their attention to the next step in their education—transferring to a 4-year institution. The college celebrates October as Transfer Awareness Month each year because it aligns with the transfer application periods of many public universities. The Transfer Center schedules an array of workshops and information sessions as part

Chavez Brings Diverse Expertise



Kristie Chavez, the new Department Assistant II in Tehachapi, brings a diverse background of experience to Cerro Coso. She spent the last 8 years in the medical field in billing, insurance, and front office, and is a licensed Emergency Medical Technician and certified phlebotomist. Chavez is also a skilled event planner and works as a wedding coordinator for a picturesque country garden in Tehachapi, a job she puts to good use as she plans her own upcoming wedding. Growing up in Sacramento, Chavez's family moved to Tehachapi when her father was stationed at a nearby military base. After high school she moved back to Sacramento, only to return to meet the love of her life and fiancé Adam. Chavez returned to Tehachapi after Adam relocated from Alaska to California and settled in Palmdale. The two plan to marry next July in a vineyard. Thrilled with her new position at the college, Chavez says Cerro Coso has brought exciting new opportunities to the community. Building on the college's program strengths and excellence the new location has created an exciting synergy within the community of Tehachapi. Chavez loves interacting with the students in the continuation high school adjacent to the facilities the college is renting and is looking forward to seeing many of them take classes at the college. She knows firsthand the drudgery of traveling over the mountain to CSU Bakersfield and is looking forward to taking classes herself. **Cerro Coso extends a warm welcome to Kristie!**

King Library Workshop Winner

The library provides workshops every semester for students to learn new research skills. September's workshop 10 Ways the Library Will Boost Your Success highlighted some of the library's most useful resources. Twelve students attended the workshop and were entered into a drawing for a chance to choose between a Pony Espresso gift card, a Cerro Coso hat, or a Cerro Coso shirt. The winner, Ashley King, was very happy to choose the Pony Espresso gift card. Now Ashley can get her caffeine on while using library databases to find the best articles for her papers! Upcoming workshops include: Google Like a Librarian, and Cite It Right. Pre-registration is not required and all students are invited to attend any workshop for a chance to win. **The CCCC Library shares strategies for student success.**



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration



Standing (l to r): Jim Scott, Kenneth Vallance, Advisor René Mora, Advisor Lucila González-Cirre, Anthony Walsh, and Laura Avina. Sitting (l to r): Arrielle Rey, Jenna Daugherty, Devanne Fredette, Meritzel Herrera. Standing front: Jorge Castro.

The International Club and the Latinos United Club at the Ridgecrest Campus observed National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of renowned Hispanic figures in fine arts, literature, science, and more with posters around campus and a casual informational event in front of the gymnasium on Tuesday, October 20th. Originally established in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson, the observation was expanded by Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30 day period. **What gets you through the daily struggle of pursuing that dream is rooted in cultural heritage. – Andy Garcia**

Vocational Nursing students brought pastries and coffee to the Ridgecrest Police Department to show their appreciation for the men and women who dedicate their lives to the safety of others. Ofc. Timothy Plunkett, Bernadette Dewey, Melanie Anderson, Jennifer Johnson, Ofc. Matt Rowland, Ofc. Corey Huardk, Ofc. Michael Compito, and Marie Johnson.



ESCC Road Trip to UNR



In an effort to encourage ESCC students to transfer to 4-year universities, Greg Kost, ESCC's long-time counselor, planned an inaugural college visit to his alma mater, University of Nevada, Reno, (UNR) on Friday, October 2, 2015. UNR is a partner in the Inyo

County Superintendent of School's Inyo Promise and Mono County Office of Education's Mono Promise offering transfer students a reduced out-of-state tuition rate under the Western Undergraduate Exchange program. Matt Hightower, Professor of Business and Computer Science, and Christine Abbott, Professor of English, went along for the ride, took photos, and provided snacks for the 8-hour round-trip drive. ESCC alumnus Brian Grevenskamp, a current UNR student, met them in Reno and shared his experiences. UNR admissions officers arranged a welcome for the 27 ESCC students in attendance, connected them with department representatives to tour various department facilities, provided lunch in the cafeteria, and offered opportunities to visit UNR students in their dorm rooms. Matt Hightower recorded the total distance covered on foot: 12,536 steps covering 6.52 miles and climbing 28 floors! Fortunately Christine Abbott had plenty of donuts, apples, and water to nourish students on the drive home. Thank you, Greg Kost, for this fun and informative opportunity. We're sure there will be many more students transferring to UNR next fall! **There's no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.**

Happy Thanksgiving!

College closed Nov. 26-27

Sharpe an Advocate for Education



Lisa Sharpe who has resided in the Kern River Valley since 1983 is the new Department Assistant II for Access Programs at the Lake Isabella Campus. Lisa and her husband Dave have two grown children, Delia and Tom and four wonderful grandchildren. She spent 25 years in the banking industry 20 of those as a branch manager in Lake Isabella. "After I retired from banking I took a job in a veterinary office because I love animals," she said. Working with the wonderful staff at the Lake Isabella Campus and helping students achieve their higher education goals is what Lisa is looking forward to most in her new job. "Helping students gain the knowledge, skills, and experience you get in college will help them adapt to a greater variety of jobs and careers and better their futures." **Welcome Lisa!**

Spirits Summoned to the KRV Campus

The students and staff at the Lake Isabella Campus were invited to creep, float, or crawl on over to a Halloween Bash in costume on Friday, October 23rd. In all, 40 to 50 of the strong, brave, and bold accepted the summons for a wicked good time. The scene was a-rockin' and they were diggin' the sounds when tombs creaked open and witches took flight, they gathered in the desolate dark of night. They joined in the revelry and dared not be late, else woe, misfortune would be their fate. Ghosts and goblins and creatures of fright, didn't miss the call of Halloween Night. **Flabbergasting fun in quantum leaps for everyone!**



Paula – The Heart of an Artist

The Visual and Performing Arts Department announced the opening of a new show in the LRC Gallery at the Ridgecrest Campus titled “Paula – The Heart of an Artist.” The installation commemorates the art-filled life of Paula Caudill, our friend and colleague, who sadly passed away in July.



Paula worked at the college for 19 years in a number of capacities, most recently serving as an Assessment Assistant. She was loving and generous, made time for everyone, and could lift your spirits with just her smile. An incredibly creative soul, Paula filled her world with the art she created and that of others. She had planned to retire from the college in December of this year and fully devote herself to pursuing her passion for art. Sadly, heart disease took her too soon. The show in honor of

Paula presents a confluence of her art work, personal space, and memorabilia. Artists almost never look at their work in the context of “the white cube.” Their work is born out of the chaos of the studio environment and the often random nature of their thoughts and studio processes. This is where

their art work is most alive. An artist like Paula lived in her studio; that’s where she made her art, and was happy. She adored and collected dragonflies, was a precious friend, and will be deeply missed by her family and co-workers. Dedicated to Paula, this show is a tribute to her work, creative talent, and the passion for which she was known.

Paula – The Heart of an Artist.

THE OFFICIAL COYOTES
VARSITY SHOP



Great news! Cerro Coso’s brand new online school store has officially launched! Treat yourself or your friends with a purchase from the new school store for this school year!

Through the VIP Branding Program, the college has a new online school store filled with fresh, new Coyotes gear. Shop for yourself or a student and the Cerro Coso Community College Alumni Association will receive funds from every purchase to support students and programs. This drives much needed funding to the school and unifies all of us as our students, families, alumni, faculty, and others start to see more and more Cerro Coso Community College gear in the community! Every item sold in our Varsity Shop is custom-made. **VISIT THE OFFICIAL NEW SCHOOL STORE BY CLICKING THE IMAGE ON THE COLLEGE HOMEPAGE OR BY ENTERING varsityshop.com/ca_cerro_coso_cc IN YOUR INTERNET BROWSER WINDOW.**

Go Coyotes!



BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE
CERRO COSO COLLEGE
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE

About this Publication

The Coyote Howler is a publication of Cerro Coso Community College.

For more information about the stories in this publication, or to include information in this publication, contact Natalie Dorrell, Public Information Manager, at 760-384-6260 or email ndorrell@cerrocoso.edu.