



# College of Alameda

## Splash



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Timothy Karas, President

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### President's Corner: Building Our Community



These past weeks I, and other College members, attended a variety of community events and meetings, including a meeting regarding the redevelopment of the Alameda Marina, the First Annual Oakland Promise Community Report, and the Alameda Boys and Girls Club's fundraiser among others. At these events I generally meet College alumni and others who express their appreciation for the important work that we do in educating our students. In addition to strengthening our ties to the community, these meetings also provide me with opportunities to learn more about the communities that we serve.

For example: At the redevelopment meeting I learned about Alameda Marina's maritime history. Once a thriving World War II shipyard, the Alameda Marina has since offered dry boat storage, warehouse space, industrial space, and maintenance and repair services for boats and recreational vehicles.

The Alameda Marina redevelopment will reimagine the existing property, adding housing and commercial units to the City of Alameda. The planning process offers a unique opportunity to integrate existing uses with new developments to provide employment, residences, and recreation for current and future residents of the City. (The Alameda Marina Master Plan can be viewed online, <https://tinyurl.com/zafs2rb>.)

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## The First Annual Oakland Promise Community Report

The First Annual Oakland Promise Community Report was held at MLK Elementary School in Oakland on February 15, 2017. Over 400 educators, students, families, college partners, elected officials, and community leaders attended the event. Peralta attendees included myself, Berkeley Community College (BCC) President **Rowena Tomaneng**, Merritt President **Marie-Elaine Burns**, PCCD Chancellor **Jowel C. Laguerre**, PCCD Vice Chancellor **Luis Pedraja**, and PCCD Foundation Director **Kevin Kosik**. As part of the Oakland Promise, OUSD graduates attend their first semester free at one of the Peralta Colleges. All four Peralta Colleges (CoA, BCC, Merritt, and Laney) currently have the first cohort of Oakland Promise students enrolled in classes. The program will continue to grow and flourish at CoA.

## Annual City Manager's Address

Vinh Pham, Ava Lee, and Paula Armstead joined me on February 24, 2017, at the City of Alameda Annual City Manager's Address. The event was hosted by the Alameda Chamber of Commerce. At the meeting, City Manager **Jill Keimach** highlighted several areas of focus, including homelessness, affordable housing, transportation, and Alameda Point. I'm happy to say that CoA continues to be a strong partner with both the City and Chamber of Commerce.

## Alameda Boys & Girls Club Fundraiser

Vice-President of Student Services **Tina Vasconcellos** and I attended the *32nd Annual Dinner and Auction* for the Alameda Boys & Girls Club on March 4, 2017. Trustee **Bill Withrow** also attended the gala fundraiser. The Boys & Girls Club of Alameda has about 1,600 members, and about 70 percent of them rely on scholarships to participate in its activities.

## Congratulations to Our Newly Tenured Faculty!

On February 21, 2017, the Peralta Board of Trustees granted tenure to seven of our faculty. Please join me in congratulating **Drew Burgess**, Art; **Hoi Ko**, Aviation; **Marissa Nakano**, CalWORKS/Counseling; **Vanson Nguyen**, Mathematics, Sabeen Sandhu, Sociology; **Phyllis Tappe**, DSPS; and **Vivian Virkkila**, Transfer Center Counselor. Congratulations to all for reaching this important milestone and thank you for all that you do for our students!

## Mark Your Calendars for Our Accreditation Celebration

I will be hosting an **Accreditation Celebration on Wednesday, March 22**, from **Noon to 1 p.m.** in the **F building** to acknowledge and recognize the hard work of staff, faculty, and administrators to have the Colleges accreditation reaffirmed. There will be a light lunch and desserts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Karas".

Timothy Karas, President  
College of Alameda



Vinh Pham, Ava Lee, and Paula Armstead

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## Architects Selected for COA's New Center for Liberal Arts



At the February 21, 2017, PCCD Board of Trustees meeting, Overaa Construction and Noll & Tam Architects were awarded the contract to construct CoA's New Center for Liberal Arts. A great amount of work over many years by many people has led up to this significant juncture.

The New Center for Liberal Arts project will provide a home to various Liberal Arts departments within an innovative and flexible modern learning environment. The new building will be located in a prominent position, visible to the on-campus and off-campus community, including pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Spaces include faculty and administrative offices, art and apparel design labs, classrooms, student

gathering spaces, a faculty lounge and art gallery. This project will be the first entirely new permanent facility at CoA in 25 years and will occupy approximately 50,000 gross square feet.

## MESA Welcomes New Students and a New STEM Industry Partner to the MESA Family

On February 10, 2017, the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement program (MESA) hosted its first Orientation and University of California (UC) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Transfer Success Workshop. New students were welcomed to the MESA Family as well as scientists from a neighboring Biotechnology company, Emery Pharma. Emery Pharma is a full-service contract Research Laboratory specializing in microbiology, cell-biology, medical chemistry, and bio-analytical services.

Emery Pharma representatives spoke at the workshop about their own journeys in studying science, including **Dr. Sridhar Arumugam**, Ph.D., Director of Cell and Microbiology; **Dr. Kiran Bijlani**, Ph.D., Associate



New MESA Students and Emery Pharma Staff, 2/10/17.

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Director of Cell and Microbiology; and **Dr. Charles Francavilla, Ph.D.**, Vice President of Research and Development and Co-Founder of Emery Pharma. All three of the presenters encouraged MESA students to persevere in their studies and invited them to apply internships at Emery Pharma.

In addition to learning about STEM career paths in Biology, Chemistry, and Biotechnology, students had an opportunity to speak with CoA's very own Math Department Chair and former MESA Alumnus from UCLA, **Vanson Nguyen** about what it takes to be successful in mathematics courses and a STEM career. UC Davis Representative **Mayra Escobar**, presented information about how to transfer to from community college to a four-year university. MESA thanks CoA's Transfer Center Director, **Vivian Virkila**, for this successful collaboration.

Students also learned about other MESA offerings, including internship opportunities, career exploration, and transfer support.



*Internship Opportunities: MESA Students gained valuable hands-on experience in the Anatomy Lab, MESA Summer 2016 Internship.*



*Career Exploration and Transfer Support: MESA Students tour UCSF's Medical School and talk directly to Admissions Directors to understand the Med-School application process .*

complete STEM degrees. MESA provides science and math tutoring, academic and career counseling, scholarship and internship application support, mentoring, and exposure to local STEM companies and four-year transfer institutions. For more information, please email: [coamesa@peralta.edu](mailto:coamesa@peralta.edu) or call 510-466-5375, or check out our new website: <http://alameda.peralta.edu/coamesa/>.

*Submitted by Camille Santana, M.S., MESA Counselor, and Leslie Reiman, Biology Instructor*

### **Emery Pharma Invites CoA Students to Apply**

**Dr. Charles Francavilla** of Emery Pharma, also a current student in CoA's Aviation Maintenance Technology program, knows the value of hands-on experience and has decided to offer internships specifically to College of Alameda students. The COA Biology Department and MESA Program are currently seeking students to work in Emery Pharma's laboratories alongside professional scientists.

Please email [coamesa@peralta.edu](mailto:coamesa@peralta.edu) if you are interested in learning more about this amazing opportunity!

### **About MESA**

MESA empowers first-generation college students with financial hardships to excel in Math, Science, and Engineering fields and transfer to four-year universities to

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# COA Transfer Students Travel to UC Davis for *Discover UC Davis*



College of Alameda and Laney transfer students stop for a photograph outside the Mondavi Center at UC Davis with Camille Santana, College of Alameda MESA Counselor; (front row, second from the right), Cynthia Taing, Laney College Transfer Center Counselor (front row, third from the right) and Vivian Virkkila, College of Alameda Transfer Center Counselor (front row, fourth from the

On Friday, February 24, 2017, College of Alameda transfer students travelled to UC Davis for *Discover UC Davis*, a career-planning event and college tour. *Discover UC Davis* was attended by 20 community colleges in Northern California all of which participate in the UC Davis Transfer Opportunities Program (TOP). This year, the Transfer Center and MESA Program worked together to bring future transfer students to this annual event. Students attended information sessions on pre-law, engineering, pre-health, undergraduate research, financial aid, and student support services. Students rounded out their day by attending a transfer alumni panel and campus tour.

Special recognition goes to **Mayra Escobar**, College of Alameda's TOP coordinator and on-campus UC Davis advisor, for her dedication to COA students and for organizing this year's event.

Students interested in meeting with Mayra or learning more about other transfer resources and events should contact **Vivian Virkkila**, Transfer Center Counselor, at 510-748-2113 or by email at: [vvirkkila@peralta.edu](mailto:vvirkkila@peralta.edu).

Students studying a STEM field and interested in learning more about the support and resources provided by the MESA program should contact Camille Santana, STEM Counselor, at: [camsantana@peralta.edu](mailto:camsantana@peralta.edu) or [coamesa@peralta.edu](mailto:coamesa@peralta.edu).

Submitted by Vivian Virkkila, Transfer Center Counselor



Camille Santana, College of Alameda MESA Counselor (far right) with COA MESA students outside of Discover UC Davis conference

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# Culturally Engaging Campus Environments (CECE) Survey

College of Alameda is participating in a national survey – Culturally Engaging Campus Environments (CECE). All CoA students received an email from The CECE Project with a link to the survey ,where their responses will be anonymous and confidential.



## Win \$\$ and Prizes!

- ✓ **Check your email**
- ✓ **Respond to the survey sent from  
“The CECE Project”**
- ✓ **Get entered into raffle for \$\$ and prizes**

**Your feedback helps improve our campus!**



It is the Mission of College of Alameda to serve the educational needs of its diverse community by providing comprehensive and flexible programs and resources that empower students to achieve their goals.

The survey closes on March 31, 2017, so it's important that students respond in the next few weeks.

Findings from the Culturally Engaging Campus Environments (CECE) survey will be used to inform the work of educators both at College of Alameda and nationally to help improve campus life for students.

**Please share this information with CoA Students:**

*Please take a few moments and complete the survey.*

*Your feedback is very important to us. It will help us address the needs of CoA students like you!*

*Help us make tangible changes that improve the environment on our campus!*

**Students completing the survey will be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate to the CoA Book Store and USB Flash Drives.**

*Submitted by Karen Engel, Ph.D., Interim Dean, Research, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness*

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## CoA Hosts a High School Counselor and Partner Breakfast

On Friday, March 3, 2017, 40 high school counselors and community advocates attended CoA's High School Counselor and Community Partner Breakfast.

The event featured informative presentations, interactive activities, a student panel, and department rotations. CoA's cougar mascot made an appearance in support of the occasion.



Members of CoA, student panelists, high school partners, and community partners

transfer information, health services, DSPS, MESA, Promise, EOPS/CalWORKs/CAFYES, and more.

A representative from Oakland Technical High School praised the event and said, "I can now walk away from CoA with a wealth of information that I was not aware of before. Learning more about the resources and programs at CoA made me realize how many more of our students would benefit from enrollment on your campus versus other campuses."

Another partner gave the breakfast high praise in a written evaluation: "The faculty and staff in the rotating department panels were very informative and thorough!" Additionally, the event provided valuable networking opportunities to CoA outreach team members who as a result of the event successfully scheduled several Mobile CoA dates to provide enrollment assistance at various partner sites.

### Past Events:

February 21, Youth Radio Workshop

February 21, SJND 2nd Annual Resource Fair at SJND

March 3, High School Counselor and Community Partner Breakfast at CoA

March 8, Transfer Admissions Session at SJND

### Upcoming Events:

March 8, Transfer Admissions Session at SJND

March 9, Community College Fair at Berkeley High School

March 10, Mobile CoA (applications) at Millennium High School

*Article submitted by Outreach Specialist Ashley Flores. Photos by Natalie Rodriguez, Denise Burgara, and Esther Pillitiere.*

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## CoA Receives Grant to Go Smoke and Tobacco Free



College of Alameda has been awarded a \$7,500 grant as part of the Truth Initiative, a program intended to accelerate and expand the adoption and implementation of a smoke-and tobacco-free campus policy. CoA is one of five community colleges in California that has received funds and technical support from Truth Initiative, the nation's largest non-profit public health organization dedicated to making tobacco use a thing of the past.

Truth Initiative has partnered with 88 community colleges and hopes to reach more than 1 million community college students and 74,000 faculty and staff across 30 states.

College of Alameda Health Services Coordinator **Evan Schloss** will oversee grant implementation at the College. Peralta Colleges Tobacco-less Clubs were instrumental in championing the initiative to make College of Alameda 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free. **Pauline Bondonno**, grant director, wrote the application for the Truth Initiative, and led a two-year State Health Department grant at Merritt to ban e-cigarettes. She also wrote three Alameda County tobacco prevention grants, resulting in the formation of Tobacco-less clubs at Merritt and Berkeley City College.

The U.S. Department of Education reports that there are approximately 4,700 institutions of higher education in the United States. According to the Americans for Nonsmokers Rights Foundation, more than 1700 college campuses are 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free. This reflects major progress over earlier years, but much remains to be done. For more information about CoA's Truth Initiative grant implementation, contact Evan Schloss at (510) 748-2320, [eschloss@peralta.edu](mailto:eschloss@peralta.edu).

## Geology 10 Field Trip to the Marin Headlands

Geology 10 students went on a field trip to the Marin Headlands on February, 25, 2017, to study the California Coast Range Ophiolite exposed there. (Photos by Nestor Garcia)



Serpentine being donated to COA by Fort Point ranger.



Point Bonita Lighthouse.

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Pillow basalts and lichen near Point Bonita Lighthouse

*Colorful pebbles in ophiolite sourced beach sand from Rodeo Beach. Includes polished green, red and yellow chert in addition to basalt, greywacke sandstone and rounded sea shells. If you are lucky you might find a carnelian!*

The next Geology 10 field trip is to the Sibley Volcanic Reserve on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Join us!

## Upcoming Event

### Accreditation Celebration

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Noon to 1 p.m.

F building

Hosted by CoA President Tim Karas

Light lunch and desserts will be served. I hope that you will join us!

## Make Your Splash!

Do you know an outstanding student whose story you'd like to share?

Did you attend an interesting workshop or conference?

Do you have unique projects planned for your students this semester?

Is there an upcoming event that we should all know about?

Have you or a colleague been honored with an award or been published recently?



Send us your news so we can share it with the campus community in the *CoA Splash*!

It's easy – just send us a short article and a good photo or two, and we'll take care of the rest. Don't forget to include the name of the writer, the photographer, and anyone who's pictured (if possible).

**Please note** that *Splash* will be produced biweekly. The next issue deadline is **Monday, March 21, 2017, for publication on Thursday, March 24, 2017**. Be sure to email your news and information to: [coaspash@peralta.edu](mailto:coaspash@peralta.edu). Past issues: [alameda.peralta.edu/office-of-the-president/coa-splash-newsletters/](http://alameda.peralta.edu/office-of-the-president/coa-splash-newsletters/)

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# Enhancing Opportunities for Women in STEM Panel and Networking Event

## Enhancing Opportunities for Women in STEM Panel and Networking Event



\*Picture courtesy of Girls Inc. Island City

3:30pm-6pm

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

College of Alameda  
555 Ralph Appezzato Parkway, Building F,  
Alameda CA 94501

For Parking Permit and to RSVP, go to:  
<https://aauwwomeninstem.eventbrite.com>

For more information, contact Penny Washbourn (510)748-7455  
[pwashbou@hotmail.com](mailto:pwashbou@hotmail.com) or visit [www.alameda-ca.aauw.net](http://www.alameda-ca.aauw.net)



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