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## FabLab Leads Extraordinary Initiative to Produce Free PPE for Healthcare Workers

With the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic and shelter-in-place orders continuing to affect our communities and families, there is one bright spot that deserves mention. Many people have pulled together in our local “makers” and college communities to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare and other essential sectors. CoA’s FabLab has contributed greatly to this effort. Initially the CoA FabLab, in partnership with the Laney FabLab, developed proto-type face shield designs for healthcare workers. Since the project began, approximately 50 thousand pounds of donated plastic sheet material has been turned into over 100,000 face shields. These in-demand items have been distributed to hospitals, including Highland Hospital among others. Additionally, FabLab staff members have teamed up with CoA Apparel Design and Merchandising (ADAM) students to volunteer their time and expertise in designing and producing even more personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers and our community. These new PPE items are being manufactured by ADAM students and community members thanks to another generous donation of thousands of yards of fabric for face masks, medical gowns, medical caps, and booties. FabLab’s **Danny Beasley** has been the driving force for these various activities. This good work has caught the eye of local press:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAipBSplrW>
- <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2020/04/14/around-the-island-alamedans-kindness-during-pandemic-appreciated/>
- <https://alamedasun.com/news/alamedans-cranking-out-ppe>

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*“Here I am, just a student sewing masks...and it is just like, wow, such a show of humanity!–*

*Elaine Wu CoA ADAM Student and Volunteer PPE maker*

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## Liberal Arts Building Construction Project Nears Completion

As the College transitioned to working remotely in March 2020, progress continued on several large building projects. The new 56,000 SF Liberal Arts Building is nearing completion. In addition, work on the college's Automotive/Diesel building replacement has completed the design phase, and existing building modernization projects also are moving forward as scheduled. A grand opening for the Liberal Arts Building will be planned in the near future.



## Class of 2020 Virtual Commencement

Earning a college degree is never an easy task under the best of circumstances. It takes hard work, precious time, adequate resources, and enormous self-discipline to earn a degree. The Covid-19 pandemic added even greater obstacles for our graduates to overcome this term, but that did not stop our intrepid Class of 2020! This year 448 associate degrees and 420 certificates of achievement and proficiency were conferred. CoA, like many other academic institutions, held an online commencement ceremony. Hundreds of students participated in this year's virtual event. Congresswoman **Barbara Lee** was our guest speaker. <https://virtualgrad.marchingorder.com/alameda/i/>



## East Bay Score Moves to CoA Campus

Before the pandemic struck, **East Bay SCORE**, a non-profit organization moved their offices from downtown Oakland to the CoA campus. According to **Neil Rubenstein**, Chair of East Bay SCORE, they have received an enormous number of requests from individuals and small businesses for help. From March 1, 2020, through April 13, 2020, East Bay SCORE conducted multiple counseling sessions by phone, video conference, and email for more than 200 clients, totaling 455 individual counseling sessions. The East Bay chapter has been serving residents and businesses in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano Counties since 1982. For more information <https://eastbay.score.org/>



## Cougar Athletics News

The Cougars men's basketball team improved their conference record to 10-6 and 17-11 overall and ended the 2019-2020 season by placing 4th in the Bay Valley Conference. **COUGAR TOP PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS:** In the BVC, **Kameron "Kam" Malbrough** finished overall at No. 5, starting in 26 of 28 games played and earned 17.4 PPG; he finished 4th place in conference, averaging 19.8 PPG.



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*CoA organized a variety of options to support students, including Emergency Grants, a Chromebook loan program, free grab-and-go lunches, & free Wi-Fi access from campus parking areas*

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## COVID-19 Response: CoA Offers Emergency Grants, Wi-Fi Access, Chromebook Loans, and Free Lunches

Many CoA students experienced unanticipated hardships related to the shelter-in-place orders. In an effort to address the emergency needs of enrolled students, CoA organized a variety of options, including Emergency Grants, a Chromebook loan program, free grab-and-go lunches, and free Wi-Fi access from campus parking areas.

The Emergency Grants provided funds for food, housing, utilities, transportation issues, technology, equipment, and other emergencies that hindered our students' academic progress.

The transition from in-person classes to distance education was challenging for many of our students. To support the transition, CoA created a Chromebook Lending Program and offered free Wi-Fi access from campus parking areas.

In addition, Vice President of Student Services Dr. **Tina Vasconcellos** negotiated a partnership with the [Eat.Play.Learn. Foundation](#) and the [World Central Kitchen](#) that provided CoA Students with free grab-and-go lunches every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday through June. The food was high quality and made in popular local eateries, including **Le Cheval**, **Chop Bar**, **Souley Vegan**, and **La Marcha** among others. Student workers, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators distributed the food to hundreds of appreciative students. The effort began in early May with 400 lunches served and quickly grew to 650 meals being distributed three days a week for a total of 1950 meals served weekly. While the majority of meals went to CoA students, a small portion were given to senior citizens living in the senior living apartments across the street from the college. In addition to free meals, CoA also distributed weekly 100 free fresh produce boxes.



## College of Alameda Welcomes the Puente Program

Under the leadership of Dean **Lilia Celhay**, and with the support of the greater College of Alameda community, the Puente Program leadership team will launch the new CoA Puente Program for the incoming fall 2020 cohort. The national award-winning Puente Program has helped tens of thousands of educationally disadvantaged students enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn degrees, and return to their communities as leaders and mentors to future generations. Puente students, or Puentistas, work closely with their counselor, English instructor, and mentor to prepare for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The writing curriculum focuses on the development of college-level essay writing, reading, research, and critical thinking skills, a necessary foundation for educational success. Students may apply online for admission to the CoA Puente Program for fall 2020 at: <https://tinyurl.com/coapuate>

## Black History Month Opening Event at CoA Was a Great Success

The opening day celebration for Black History Month was held on February 4, 2020, and featured special guest Peralta Community College District Chancellor **Regina Stanback Stroud**. Throughout the month of February, CoA students and community enjoyed a variety of Black History Month events and activities, including a film screening of *Blindspotting*, participation in the Black College Expo, and a delicious “Sunday Dinner” among other exciting events.

## The CoA Library and Alameda Education Foundation Bring Art Across the Island to Life

In February 2020, the CoA Library partnered with Alameda Education Foundation's *Art Across the Island Project* to offer a display of Alameda public school students' art in the CoA Library. The display included Abstract Line Patterns by Encinal High Art 2 students and Cyanotype Prints by Encinal High AP Photography students. Read more about the *Art Across the Island Project* at: <https://alamedaeducationfoundation.org/art-across-the-island/>

Join us in welcoming CoA's Puente Program leadership team:



Director  
**Horacio  
Corona Lira**



Student  
Support  
Specialist  
**Mayra  
Arévalo-  
Agyapong**



English  
Instructor  
**Anthony  
Scoggins**

