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CoA President Dr. Nathaniel Jones III

## President's Corner: CoA Begins Return to Campus

As you are aware, on Friday, September 24, 2021, Chancellor Jackson sent an email to the entire District concerning employees' return to campus. I acknowledge the significant challenges and concerns that these changes, as well as the fear and uncertainty that exist related to COVID-19, may engender. However, please know that we are doing our best to ensure that our students may continue and succeed in their education in a safe and supportive environment.

As we chart these unfamiliar waters, I hope that we can find within us the necessary patience and perseverance needed to navigate the upcoming transition from working at home towards working once again at our welcoming and beautiful campus. As always, thank you for your service to our students and support of each other. I very much look forward to meeting many of you for the first time in person as we work together to bring our campus back to its former vibrancy. We are all in this together--- supporting student learning and success!

### Employee Vaccination:

As previously announced, all employees must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 by October 7, 2021, as a condition of employment. The Board of Trustees adopted the vaccination policy to make the

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inevitable return to in-person instruction and student support as safe as possible for all individuals involved. If you have not done so already, please upload your vaccination information or exemption request via Company Nurse. Exemption forms are available at [Safe Peralta](#) and also must be submitted by October 7, 2021. Those not vaccinated will have to submit to weekly COVID-19 testing to ensure that the risk of them being on campus is minimized. Please see [Safe Peralta](#) for details regarding testing and other information related to return to campus.

Beginning on October 8, 2021, the vaccination policy will be enforced for employees and, failure to comply with the vaccination policy may be grounds for administrative action. If you are still in need of vaccination, please contact your healthcare provider, use the free Alameda County Public Health Department vaccination service, use your local pharmacy, or sign-up for upcoming clinics at the colleges as posted on Safe Peralta.

### **Student Vaccination:**

Per the announcement from the District, students will be required to upload their proof of vaccination or exemption documents via the Campus Solutions module in PeopleSoft ( <https://sa.peralta.edu/> ) Students should have received details on how to upload their proof of vaccination sent out the week of October 4th.

The District recommends students use the state Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record at <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/> to get a screenshot of their vaccination record for uploading to Campus Solutions.

Please be advised that beginning on October 13, 2021, the vaccination policy will be upheld for students coming to campus and for all students starting Spring 2022. If students still need a vaccination, there are several options available including:

- Students have access to The Roots Clinic via Peralta Health Services
- Friday Clinics at Laney College
- Alameda County Public Health Department vaccination service
- Local pharmacies

Additionally, everyone coming onto District operated property are required to wear masks or other appropriate face coverings. Maintaining a high degree of safety for our students, faculty, and staff remains our chief priority.

Warmest regards,



Dr. Nathaniel Jones III

College of Alameda President



# ACCESO

Adelante con Comunidad, Excelencia, Sabiduría y Oportunidad

## ACCESO Kicks Off it's Second Year of Programming with a New Workshop Series and Lively Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations

College of Alameda's (CoA) Adelante con Comunidad, Excelencia, Sabiduría y Oportunidad (ACCESO) program is now in its second year of operation and going strong. Currently enrolling 180 students, up from 60 last fall, ACCESO is the College's primary project under its \$2.9 million Hispanic Serving Institution Grant (HSI), which was awarded in fall 2019.

Under the leadership of ACCESO/Puente Programs Director **Horacio Corona Lira**, the ACCESO team also has grown this fall with the addition of a part-time counselor, a student success coach, and eight student peer mentors. While ACCESO's mission is to expand opportunities and improve the educational attainment of Latinx students, the program also is open to all CoA students.

This fall ACCESO is offering over 25 workshops led by faculty and staff on various topics designed to support student success, including academic support, transfer, and study strategies. [The ACCESO Workshop Series](#) is being widely promoted to all CoA students in order to encourage broad participation.

In addition to the exciting new ACCESO workshop series, Director Corona Lira and Director of Office of Student Activities and Campus Life **Natalie Rodriguez** organized a series of college-wide events in celebration of Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month.

Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month program kicked off on September 23, 2021, with a virtual screening of the film *Primero, Sueño*, followed by a live discussion with Film Director Andres Lira. Over 20 students, faculty, and staff participated in the lively conversation, focusing on the plights of farm workers in California's central valley, and reflecting on their personal experiences related to topics of immigration, poverty, and the need to uplift one another through participating in important cultural engagement opportunities like the events and workshops offered through ACCESO.



*Librarian Joshua Rose is pleased to join the College of Alameda*

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## Welcome To Our New Tenure Track Faculty

**Joshua Rose** is pleased to join the College of Alameda as a Librarian (Instruction and Reference). Prior to coming to CoA, he served as the Science Librarian at Saint Mary's College of California, supporting the library research needs and information literacy skills of undergraduate science students. In addition to serving as a librarian, Josh has collaborated on research related to writing development in STEM disciplines and co-chaired a workplace culture task force focused on training related to equity, diversity, and inclusion and deconstructing white privilege. Josh holds a Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Oregon.



*Didem Ekici has been teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for 17 years*

**Didem Ekici** has been teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for 17 years both overseas and in the US. She is passionate about learning and experiencing other cultures. This passion became the scope of her doctoral dissertation as she worked on "**Developing intercultural competence among ESOL teachers**" through online English language teaching. She has taken different roles at College of Alameda and Peralta District, such as Guided Pathways and ESOL Guided Self Placement team member, District Distance Education Coordinator, and Peralta Online Equity Trainer. She is honored to contribute to the mission of CoA with her experiences and expertise in the field.



*CoA's New Head Men's Basketball Coach Ravi Bhambhra*

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## Welcome to Our New Men's Basketball Coach.

“We are excited to welcome Head Coach **Ravi Bhambhra** to Alameda,” said CoA Athletic Director **Ramaundo Vaughn**.

“Throughout his coaching career, what has stood out is that Ravi has been associated with winning at a high level. Just as impressive as his winning record, is the fact that everyone who speaks of him, speaks to his character and integrity.” Bhambhra joins CoA after stints at City College of San Francisco as Assistant Coach and Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa. At CCSF, Coach Bhambhra was on staff when the Rams won the 2017-18 State Championship, finishing the season with an impressive record of 33-1. At NOC Tonkawa, the team had unprecedented success during his two years and finished with the

program's highest national ranking in school history. His impact as a fierce recruiter and tireless worker earned him a spot in the Top 50 Most Impactful JUCO Coaches by Silverwaves Media.



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## Welcome to Our Newest Staff Member

The Career Center and Student Activities Offices is pleased to announce that it has hired **Jeremy Simmons** as their new staff assistant. Jeremy was born, raised, and attended community college in Southern California. He moved to Oakland in the late-90s as a transfer student to complete his Bachelor's in Fine Arts Degree and eventually earned a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the San Francisco Art Institute. For nearly 20 years, Jeremy has prided himself on taking a student-centered approach to his multi-faceted work in higher education. He lives in Oakland with his middle school-aged son; however, they can frequently be found in Alameda at their favorite theater, restaurants, and arcades.



*Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Trainee Erica Gibbons*

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## CoA Welcomes New Mental Health Counseling Interns

Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Trainee **Erica Gibbons** was born and raised in the East Bay. She is currently receiving her masters in Marriage and Family Therapy at the University of San Francisco, where she is pursuing her therapy license. Erica followed the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) track through Peralta and transferred to the University of California (UC), Berkeley where she studied and taught Ethnic Studies. She is dedicated to community healing in the fight against identity-based oppression, and advocates for the mental liberation of all folks.



*MFT Trainee Elizabeth Montes*

MFT Trainee **Elizabeth Montes** comes from a tiny town in Northern California called Esparto. She attended UC Berkeley where she studied human biology and psychology. She worked as a behavior technician for a couple of years before enrolling at The Wright Institute where she is pursuing a Masters in Counseling Psychology Degree in order to get licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Ms. Montes is proud of her background as a low-income Mexican-American, first-generation college student and is passionate about serving marginalized communities.

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## Call for Proposals for Mid-Semester Flex Day

The CoA Professional Development Committee would like to invite you to submit proposals for activities and workshops for this Professional Development Day. College of Alameda Mid-Semester Flex Day will be on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, and it will be a virtual (online) event.

Please, submit your proposals by completing the brief [Fall 2021 Mid-Semester Flex Day Proposal Submission Form](#). The deadline to submit your proposal is Wednesday, October 6, 2021, by 5 p.m.



*From left ink and watercolor drawings title Buddha and Quetzalcóatl, by CoA art student Ms. He Jin Eng.*

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## Art Department News: Student Expression of Diversity Through Art

The East Bay is one of the most diverse and eclectic regions in the country, populated by people from just about every conceivable background and walk of life. Art Professor **Drew Burgess** encourages his students to creatively express their cultural backgrounds and experiences in their art. In Ms. He Jin Eng's art, Professor Burgess sees a unique and beautiful synthesis of multi-cultural expression and artistic creativity.

He Jin Eng grew up in Mexico City and now lives in the Bay Area. Her wonderful depictions of Buddha and Quetzalcóatl, one of the major deities of the ancient Mexican pantheon, from a class assignment, provides an interesting visual bridge across cultures.

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## CalFresh Sign Up

Need groceries? We can help you apply for food stamps!

**10/12/21 and 10/26/21**  
**12-2 pm**  
**CoA Circle**

What documents do I need to bring?

1. Identification for all adults in the household who are applying
  - Drivers License, State ID, US Passport or Birth Certificate
2. Social Security Numbers
3. Proof of income from the previous month
  - Earned Income: Pay Check
  - Unearned Income: Pension, Social Security Award Letter, Retirement Income, Disability Statement, Veteran's Benefits
4. Proof of Living Expenses
  - Rent, Utilities, Phone Bill, Medical Expenses

Questions? Contact Natalie Rodriguez  
at [nrodriguez@peralta.edu](mailto:nrodriguez@peralta.edu)



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## CalFresh Application Assistance Events Will Be Held This Month

Although we have unfortunately run out of Emergency Food Grants, students may apply for CalFresh. CalFresh is a financial aid program for food. Students who are enrolled at least half-time, might be eligible for CalFresh if **ONE** of the following apply:

- Participate in EOPS/CARE, SAS (formerly DSPS at CoA), or MESA
- Participate in foster youth programs such as Guardian Scholars, FYSI, NextUp, extended foster care (AB 12/AB 212)
- Have dependent children under the age of 12
- Receive CalWORKs
- Approved for work study
- Work 20 hours/week; or an average of 80 hours/month

Applying online takes just a few minutes and if approved, students will receive money to purchase groceries via an

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card every month that they are eligible. Students may apply online at <http://www.getcalfresh.org/s/cdss>. Please also let students know that CoA is holding CalFresh registration assistance in person events on October 12, 2021, and October 26, 2021. For more information please contact *Director of Student Activities and Campus Life* Natalie Rodriguez, [nrodriguez@peralta.edu](mailto:nrodriguez@peralta.edu).

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## Celebrate LatinX/Hispanic Heritage Month

### UNDERSTANDING LATINX/A/O DIVERSITY AND WHY IT MATTERS

October 12, 2021, 12 - 1 pm

Register at <https://bit.ly/3A8U6IT>

Co-Sponsored by ACCESO/Puente & The Office of Student Activities & Campus Life.

# Working Schedule

2021-2022 COUGAR MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE				
DATE	DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
<b>NON-CONFERENCE</b>				
Nov 5	Fri	7:00 pm	<b>**Foothill College</b>	Los Altos Hills, CA
Nov 10	Wed	5:00 pm	<b>**Cosumnes River College</b>	Sacramento, CA
Nov 13	Sat	3:00 pm	<b>**Columbia College</b>	Alameda, CA
Nov 19	Fri	6:00 pm	<b>**Skyline College</b>	Alameda, CA
Nov 22	Mon	7:00 pm	<b>**Diablo Valley College</b>	Alameda, CA
Nov 30	Tues	6:00 pm	<b>** Folsom Lake College</b>	Folsom, CA
Dec 10	Fri	6:00 pm	<b>**Gavilan College</b>	Gilroy, CA
Dec 11	Sat	3:00 pm	<b>**West Valley College</b>	Alameda, CA
Dec 15	Wed	6:00 pm	<b>**American River College</b>	Alameda, CA
Dec 22	Wed	5:00 pm	<b>**City College of San Francisco</b>	Alameda, CA
<b>CONFERENCE</b>				
Dec 28	Tue	4:00 pm	<b>Yuba College</b>	Alameda, CA
Dec 30	Thu	4:00 pm	<b>Solano College</b>	Alameda, CA
Jan 4	Tue	7:30 pm	<b>Contra Costa College</b>	San Pablo, CA
Jan 6	Thu	7:30 pm	<b>Los Medanos College</b>	Alameda, CA
Jan 8	Sat	7:30 pm	<b>Napa Valley College</b>	Napa, CA
Jan 11	Tues	-	<b>BYE</b>	-
Jan 13	Thurs	7:30 pm	<b>College of Marin</b>	Alameda, CA
Jan 15	Sat	7:30 pm	<b>Mendocino College</b>	Ukiah, CA
Jan 19	Wed	7:30 pm	<b>Merritt College</b>	Alameda, CA
Jan 21	Fri	7:30 pm	<b>Yuba College</b>	Marysville, CA
Jan 26	Wed	7:30 pm	<b>Solano College</b>	Fairfield, CA
Jan 28	Fri	7:30 pm	<b>Contra Costa College</b>	Alameda, CA
Feb 2	Wed	7:30 pm	<b>Los Medanos College</b>	Pittsburg, CA
Feb 4	Fri	7:30 pm	<b>Napa Valley College</b>	Alameda, CA
Feb 9	Wed	-	<b>BYE</b>	-
Feb 11	Fri	7:30 pm	<b>College of Marin</b>	Kentfield, CA
Feb 16	Wed	7:30 pm	<b>Mendocino College</b>	Alameda, CA
Feb 18	Fri	7:30 pm	<b>Merritt College</b>	Oakland, CA
<p><b>Head Coach:</b> Ravi Bhambhra  <b>Assistant Coaches:</b> Stefan Maksimovic  <b>Athlete Director:</b> Ramaundo Vaughn  <b>President:</b> Dr. Nathaniel Jones  <b>Dean of Enrollment Services:</b> Dr. Amy H. Lee  <i>Mascot: Cougar, Color: Royal Blue</i>  <i>Home Games in Blue</i>  <i>**Non-Conference Games</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.alameda.peralta.edu/Athletics/mens-basketball">http://www.alameda.peralta.edu/Athletics/mens-basketball</a></p>				





WIN A PRIZE!

# Wellness Wednesdays

Presented by Health Services &

The Office of Student Activities & Campus Life

## LIVING WITH



# Loss

Coping strategies for dealing with loss

Wed., Oct. 27, 2021

12 - 1 pm

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9072895579>

## Protect your Energy

Protecting your mental health in unprecedented times

Wed., Nov. 17, 2021

12 - 1 pm

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9072895579>



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK

Until everyone's fed

*Bring your own reusable bags &  
Please wear a mask*

COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

# *Free Produce Market*

Free bi-weekly outdoor food market for students and members of the community! Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month starting Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at the entrance of campus through Ralph Appezato Memorial Parkway.

*2nd & 4th Tuesday | 12:30PM to 2PM | CoA Circle*

555 Ralph Appezato Memorial Parkway, Alameda, CA. 94501  
Questions? Contact Natalie Rodriguez, [nrodriguez@peralta.edu](mailto:nrodriguez@peralta.edu)



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## 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](mailto: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.peralta.edu/newsletter/coa-splash/>