

College of Alameda President's Report

January 24, 2012

FABULOUS FRIDAY @ COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

Despite the first rain of the winter season, close to a 100 students, faculty, and staff participated in making Fabulous Friday, January 20th, New Student Orientation Day a success! Activities began with a general presentation to the students covering the educational opportunities available to them at COA as well as the college resources they'll need to meet their goals.



Lunch was next where students heard inspirational speeches from Jamar Mears, a former COA graduate, now an adjunct counselor working with the Foster Youth Program on campus, and Hector Corrales, one of our most esteemed and veteran counselors. Meet the Faculty and Staff! was a HUGE favorite with the students as they were able to hear more about many different programs and classes being offered at the college.

The day concluded with small breakout groups to discuss different situations that may confront new students (being undecided, feeling overwhelmed with classes, encountering difficult personal circumstances). The small groups then got back together as a whole to share and reflect on the strategies and recommendations the students came up with. Not only were the students amazed by how much they could help one another, many felt better that they weren't alone in their feelings. Final evaluations show an overwhelming student satisfaction with the event and many said they felt really positive about starting their semester at COA-- the instructors they met were wonderful, information learned was beneficial, and the new friends they made were awesome.

Many students shared that they really felt a good connection with the campus and definitely felt welcomed and supported as they start their academic studies. It was a great collaboration between student services and instruction and shows what outstanding things can happen when our family works together.

MAA Funds help support Student Services Programs

MAA stands for Medi-Cal Administrative Activities. College of Alameda's business Manager, MaryBeth Benvenuti facilitated an introduction that allows the college to



participate in a Federal program that **reimburses** schools and community colleges for the time staff and faculty spend connecting students and families with the California Medi-Cal insurance program, Medi-Cal providers or Medi-Cal

covered health services.

The College regularly promotes access to health care for our students as part of our ongoing services. However, through this program, the college (through individual participating programs) can be reimbursed “unrestricted dollars” that can be spent on other services that students may need. Several community colleges in the area have participated in “MAA” for several years and have been able to significantly enhance their health programs and services to students with these additional revenues. Laney College has been participating for over five years; and has generated thousands of dollars for the participating programs.

College of Alameda's Counseling department, EOPS, DSPS, the College's Learning communities, and the One Stop Career Center are programs that already provide this type of information to students and could use the unrestricted funds to enhance their services to students.

In order to participate, staff need to:

- Attend a short “MAA training” presentation, which was conducted on December 13 at the College.
- Capture staff time on a survey during a one-week time period 3 times a year. This year we will only participate in two time survey periods, the first in January and the next sometime after April 1st.

This program allows us to capture what we are already doing on a routine basis and then be reimbursed by the Medi-Cal Administration thereby generating additional revenues. This program not only helps our students and their families to be healthier and access health services, but it also brings much needed programmatic revenue into College of Alameda.

FIRST COHORT GRADUATION FOR THE DIRECTED SERVICES PROGRAM



Dick Stein, Program Coordinator for the Direct Support Professionals Career Ladder Training & Employment Program and his staff conducted the Cohort One graduation December 15, 2011. The following data summarizes the demographics of the program.

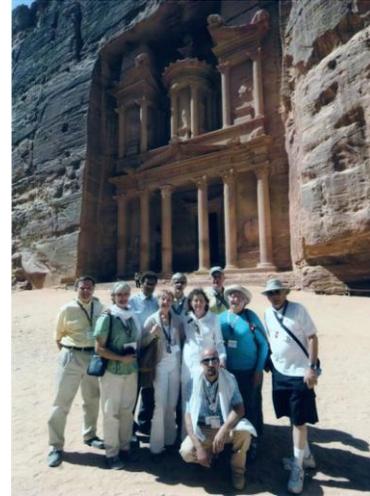
- 28 students enrolled in the Program
- 20 students finished the Program
- Thus far, 11 students have received a certificate that requires completion of the 150 hour internship. An additional 5 students are expected to complete their internship and receive a certificate.
- 9 students received job offers
- 7 students are employed in the developmental disabilities service sector as a result of program completion. We continue to seek employment for graduates and expect to place more of them in jobs.
- 7 students are continuing their education at College of Alameda



***Dr Nathan Strong presents on Ancestral DNA
Research
at Alameda Rotary***

Dr. Nathan Strong, COA anthropologist, made a presentation to the Alameda Rotary on Dec 13th entitled “Ancestral DNA Research Subjects and Racial/Bio Geographic Self Identity vs. Actual DNA, Genetic Markers”.

Dr Strong has an international reputation and was recently recognized by the prestigious Marquisⁱ Who’s Who in America and the World for his research in anthropology and DNA. This award included a trip to Jordan which has resulted the Jordanian government contacting Dr Strong to discuss possible training opportunities for its citizens. Alameda Rotarians also expressed an interest in being tested which allows COA’s Anthropology Club to raise funds that offset student costs for DNA testing.



in

ⁱ Marquis Publication Who’s Who the original, established in 1899