



President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees



May 12, 2015

President Joi Lin Blake

College of Alameda and One Stop Career Center Spring Job Fair



On Wednesday, May 6th, the College of Alameda and the Alameda One Stop Career Center held the 17th Annual Spring Job Fair. This year the focus was on the three sectors--Healthcare, Biosciences, and IT / ICT—areas of specialization at the Alameda and North Cities One Stop Career Centers.

Alameda employers including Penumbra and ABB Concise sent recruiters as did large employers with operations in Alameda including Safeway, Starbucks, and Chipotle.

Many COA dental assistant students spoke with the recruiters from Pacific Dental and the recruiter followed up with a visit to the COA dental department.

A total of 28 employers and 9 training providers /community organizations attended the event. 142 job seekers signed in.

Biotechnology Forum

The Alameda and North Cities One Stop Career Centers hosted the first of three industry sector focused forums on April 29th.

The Biotechnology Forum featured a panel of industry experts. Raya Zion, Laney College, and Katherine Bergman, Berkeley City College, provided detailed information on biotechnology and medical device manufacturing programs at PCCD. Individuals employed in the sector spoke about how they entered the biotechnology field and different occupations within the sector. Byron Clendenen, HR Director at Singulex, spoke about the skills needed to enter the biotechnology sector. The event concluded with a networking session.



Forums focused on healthcare and IT/ ICT will be scheduled for later in the year.

Asian Solidarity



Asian Solidarity was a workshop designed to bring the COA campus together. Through a community building activity, *Kodak Moment*, participants were able to break down initial barriers creating a safe space. Educator and artist, Fong Tran who works at UC Davis, performed a piece titled *"Dear young men of color."* Barriers were further broken down with a statistical breakdown of bachelor's and higher degree attainment through disaggregated Asian and Pacific Islander data, taking a step towards demystifying the model minority idea. Examples of collaboration between API and social movements were presented:

United Farm Workers Movement, Third World Liberation Front, Richard Aoki, Yuri Kochiyama and, most recently, UC Davis students supporting #blacklivesmatter. The workshop ended with another piece by Fong Tran titled *"Why I hate being Vietnamese."* The workshop was well received by students and faculty, learning untaught, by design, historical content and gaining new perspectives. A big thank you goes out to the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month planning committee for putting this on.

Bake Sale for Nepal



On May 6th APIA Cultural Showcase and Bake Sale for Nepal took place. To enjoy photos from the day's event, visit the Student Services Flickr page (Photo Credit: Julie Saechao)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/129432936@N06/>

Thanks to our community's generosity, we raised over \$500 to send to the Nepali people! Hooray!

College of Alameda Commencement Speaker: Gerald Reyes

The COA Commencement Ceremony will be held on May 22nd at 3:00 in the Gymnasium. We look forward to celebrating this special day with our graduates and families. Our Commencement speaker will be Gerald Reyes. Gerald "G" Reyes thinks of himself as like water that flows through cracks and crevices carving out opportunities for the process of becoming. This process of becoming has led him to almost two decades of critical education experiences in K-12 public education, teacher development, teacher preparation, and Youth Development arts & social justice education. As a long time East Oakland resident, he currently teaches in the Graduate School of Education at UC Berkeley preparing the next generation of exciting critical educators and also works as an education researcher and developer at Stanford University. Without a doubt, his love and commitment is with the youth of East Oakland, where he most recently worked as a principal at a small school and where he still volunteers his time to coach teachers and school leaders. As a public intellectual, he has presented & keynoted at numerous conferences across the country, in university classes, and youth events. As a knowledge producer, he wrote a text called "*Finding the Poetic High*" and for journals such as California English, Multicultural Education, and the Institute for Social Justice and Education. Gerald "G" Reyes most recently was published in a chapter of an edited volume called *The Arts and English Language Learners: Building Culturally Responsive, Critical and Creative Programs in School and Community Contexts*. As an artist, he uses weapons like the microphone, pen, and camera to inspire and provoke thought.

Cinco De Mayo



On Tuesday, May 5th, College of Alameda held its Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration in the plaza in front of the Building F organized by Associated Students and Latinos Unidos. Dayana Merino kicked off the event by speaking about the historical importance of this date in Mexican Culture and what the 1862 Mexican Army victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla its relevance today. Ultimately, the event reminded the campus community what this day truly symbolizes and to celebrate the traditions of Mexican culture.

Staying true to our objective, the event continued with a tantalizing performance by *Maestro Folklor* which displayed their traditional dances and vibrant dresses. The people also grooved to the music of *Mio and the All-Stars Band* while capping off their Cinco de Mayo experience by eating delicious tacos and nachos from *Los Dos Amigos* in the quad.