



# President’s Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees



February 23, 2016

Dr. Joi Lin Blake, President

## Lee Mun Wah Speaks at College of Alameda

On Wednesday, February 17, College of Alameda’s Breaking Barriers Lecture Series featured a presentation and workshop by Lee Mun Wah. Lee Mun Wah is a Chinese American documentary filmmaker, author, poet, Asian folk teller, educator, and master diversity trainer. His films include *Stolen Ground*, *The Color of Fear*, *Walking Each Other Home*, and *Last Chance for Eden*. His film *If These Halls Could Talk* is an outstanding documentary on college students about race and racism in higher education.



## Lecture Series to Feature Erika Huggins

The next event in College of Alameda’s Breaking Barriers Lecture Series will feature Erika Huggins, a human rights activist, poet, educator, Black Panther leader and former political prisoner.

As a result of her 14-year tenure as a leader of the Black Panther Party (the longest of any woman in leadership), she brings a unique, complete and honest perspective to the challenges and successes of the Black Panther Party, as well as its significance today. Please join us on Thursday, February 25 from 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. in the Pit, Building F.



## CoA Presents Black History Month Events

College of Alameda is pleased to host the following events in celebration of Black History Month:

### McClymonds High School Women’s Delegation to South Africa

Thursday, February 18 at noon in Building F

The delegation of young women from McClymonds High School who traveled from Oakland to South Africa this summer shared their insights and experiences in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban.

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*Kierrea Bassette-Cotton said, "I was really transformed by this ... it gave me the urge to really want other people to share in what I experienced in Africa. Now I want to change my goals and my major."*

### **Dr. Ramona Tascoe: Health Challenges in the African American Community**

Wednesday, February 24 at noon in Building F

Dr. Ramona Tasco is an internist in Oakland, California. She received her medical degree from UCSF's School of Medicine and has been in practice for 36 years. In addition, Dr. Tascoe is an ordained minister who was recently appointed U.S. Director of Health for the Kimbanguist Church of Congo. She has led medical mission trips to Kenya, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, India, Sri Lanka and, most recently, Port-au-Prince, Haiti where she was asked by the International Medical Corps to oversee the work of U.S. doctors and nurses providing medical relief in Haiti's largest public hospital.



### **Nehanda Imara: Update: Flint, Michigan – One of the Worst Cases of Environmental Racism in Modern American History**

Monday, February 29 at noon in Building F

The public water supply in Flint, Michigan is so bad, so toxic, so dangerous, that tests confirmed it had over 900 times the EPA limit for lead particles. To say that the predominantly white state government failed to take this problem seriously in a timely manner is a gross understatement. Flint, a predominantly black city of nearly 100,000 residents, was basically left on its own for more than a year.



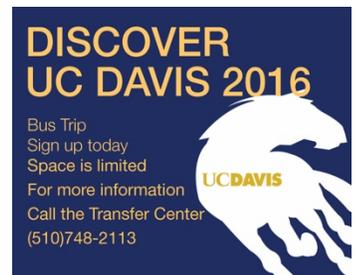
Environmental justice advocate Nehanda Imara is an East Oakland resident, dedicated activist, organizer, educator, and adjunct teacher of African American and Environmental Studies at Merritt College.

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## **Discover UC Davis Tour & Transfer Conference**

On Friday, February 26, College of Alameda will join other community colleges at UC Davis for the annual Discover UC Davis Transfer Conference. This event includes transportation to and from UC Davis; breakfast and lunch; a student-lead walking tour of UC Davis; transfer student panel; information on majors, transfer, housing, financial aid and much more.

This event is open to all students, especially new students; it will be a great place for them to start planning!



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## **Study in China Planned This Summer**

The Peralta Community College District has partnered with the China–United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF) and Wanxiang Group Corporation (WXGC) to invite Peralta Community College District students to study in China for two weeks during the summer of 2016.

Under our program, students will visit three cities in China -- Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai -- and will attend classes at local university campuses. During their stay, students will learn about Chinese language, history, culture, economic development, clean energy and other important subjects by attending lectures in the Chinese University such as Beijing Language and Culture University and Beijing



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Foreign Studies University, presented by credentialed Chinese scholars. The student groups will have additional opportunities to participate in cultural activities and tour historical sites such as the Forbidden City and the Great Wall.

College of Alameda will be selecting five students to attend. Expenses including accommodation, in-country transportation, meals and sightseeing tickets will be covered by CUSEF and partners in China. CUSEF will manage the program by providing organizational support and logistical support. CUSEF will also send local staff to assist the group throughout the trip.

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## CoA Collective Impact: New Community Partnerships

### League of Women Voters

College of Alameda is partnering with the League of Women Voters to create PCCD's first forensics/debate team. The project began in January 2016 and will culminate in a debate on April 15, 2016 at the College. The inaugural group of eight high-school students, all of whom are part of Girls Inc., will receive college credit through concurrent enrollment.



### Girls Inc- Eureka!

CoA is also partnering with the Girls Inc. Eureka! Teen Achievement Program by hosting them at the College in July 2016. Eureka! (grades 8-12) provides hands-on achievement opportunities in academics such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), college and career preparation, personal development and much more. This intensive four-week program will build confidence and skills, preparing girls for college while fostering their interest in future STEM careers.



### AC Transit

On February 1, 2016, a team from CoA and the District met with the professional development coordinator at AC Transit. CoA is working with AC Transit to provide professional development workshops through contract education and to link AC Transit employees to CoA's academic pathways leading to degrees and/or certificates.



### Innovation Studio

On January 25, CoA received a generous donation of \$10,000 from Perforce in support of the Innovation Studio at CoA. The Innovation Studio is being created as a collaborative partnership between the College and community partners to create a hub in Alameda to foster technology innovation, design, and the broader Alameda Maker Consortium, [alamedamakers.org](http://alamedamakers.org)



### NPOWER

NPower's Technology Service Corps (TSC) program provides U.S. military veterans with the skills and support they need to launch civilian careers in the booming tech sector. It includes a holistic continuum of services, including technology and soft-skills training; on-the-job apprenticeships; and job placement support. The goal is to help veterans successfully transition into the civilian workforce, by placing them into jobs with family-sustaining wages and strong potential for advancement. CoA's new program will serve 25-30 students in fall 2016, and veterans completing the 8-week program will gain CISCO certification.



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## “Real College Talks”: CoA at Parent-Student Workshop in Oakland

College of Alameda’s Outreach and Retention department will soon visit Lionel Wilson Preparatory Academy (LWP) in East Oakland to lead a workshop focusing on post-high school community college options (including the Pathways to Law School Initiative), as well as high school special enrollment in the Peralta District (now available to select 9th grade students).

The audience will be parents and students. At the workshop, interested students will have a chance to sign up for Mobile CoA services offered on-site at LWP this spring, including assessment and counseling. In 2015, 100% of Lionel Wilson Preparatory students who assessed with College of Alameda’s Mobile CoA Program enrolled in classes in Summer 2015 and/or Fall 2015. We hope to sustain and grow the strength of this partnership through events like this one.



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## Berkeley High School Visits College of Alameda

College of Alameda’s Jamar Mears, Caitlin Fischer, Ashley Flores, Nicole Kelly, Dean Char Perlas, Min Wu and Student Ambassadors teamed up to make a visit from Berkeley High School 12th graders on Monday, February 8 a great success. Ashley Flores from the department of Outreach and Retention presented on enrollment steps and CoA offerings, and Nicole Kelly followed up with an in-depth CTE presentation and tour of Aviation and Apparel Design and Merchandise classes in session. A Berkeley High School alumnus who is a current CoA athlete even volunteered to speak to the visiting students, as did counselors Camille Santana and Florentino Ubungen.

Students remarked that they were glad they had come. One even closed with “You guys are all awesome.” Well done, College of Alameda!



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## Fabulous Friday Gets a Makeover

Fabulous Friday got a makeover this spring, and looked even more fabulous! New students arrived in the morning of January 22 to a greeting from our Vice President of Instruction Tim Karas and Interim Director of Student Life Florentino Ubungen. MC Caitlin Fischer hosted welcoming activities and then split the students into smaller groups.

Facilitators Chai Saechao, Monetta Gilbert, Luis Padilla, Minerva Perez, Erika Padilla, LaShawn Brumfield and Ashley Flores guided the students through setting up their Peralta email and accessing their Student Center on Passport. Students returned to the F Building for lunch and prizes, then circulated among faculty tables and met their future mentors and professors.



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## High-Impact Partnership Event at College of Alameda

On February 17, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at College of Alameda (Room L-237), East Bay College Advising Corps (in partnership with College of Alameda Outreach & Retention) hosted a cross-training event for their Destination College Advisors (placed in the Oakland, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo schools) and the Oakland Unified School District’s College and Career Specialists.

These are professionals who focus on creating and sustaining access for Oakland (and the surrounding areas’) youth, as well as advising especially first-generation college students to pursue pathways to exciting and sustainable careers and educational journeys. Of special interest are the areas specifically supported by funding from recent Assembly Bill 86 – Health and Biosciences, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, Information Communications Technology & Digital Media, and Public Service & Law.

Advisors heard from a panel including College of Alameda, Diablo Valley College and Contra Costa College about the diverse career pathways available to their students through the California Community College system. EBCAC’s counselors and OUSD’s College and Career Specialists also had the opportunity to get to know College of Alameda’s programs and campus offerings.

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## Black College Tour Planned

College of Alameda’s Equity Plan included money to cover the cost for ten students to go on a tour of the Historical Black Colleges that entered into a transfer agreement with California Community Colleges. The tour is scheduled for Sunday March 27 - Friday April 1, 2016. CoA is currently in the process of selecting students to participate.

Although the tour is scheduled to take place during our spring break, this will not be a vacation. Students will meet with counselors, admission and financial aid officials, faculty and administrators at each site - and some may be offered admission, financial aid, and (if eligible) scholarships pending the receipt of their final grades. Students selected for the trip will be asked to bring their transcripts; they should be transfer-ready and in good academic standing.

One of the campuses that the students will visit will be Xavier University. This small Historical Black College/University is known to graduate more African American STEM majors than any other American institution of higher education. We are looking forward to this exciting opportunity!

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## College of Alameda Helps Out at Cash for College

Seven of College of Alameda’s student ambassadors attended Cash for College trainings with the East Bay Consortium this January. The first was at St. Elizabeth’s High School on Wednesday, January 13, and the second was on Saturday, January 23 at the East Bay Consortium Office.

The students gained practice and developed expertise in assisting students with the trickiest questions on the FAFSA and the Dream Application (for students who qualify for AB540 status). CoA student ambassadors were prepared with both frequently asked and unique questions related to federal and state aid for college.



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Assisting at Cash for College nights in January and February helps our Students Ambassadors build relationships with our partners before Mobile CoA and spring recruitment season kicks off. You will find College of Alameda Outreach & Retention Specialist Caitlin Fischer, the Student Ambassadors pictured above, and other CoA staff representatives from Financial Aid and Outreach assisting at our partnership high schools and community partner institutions at Cash for College events throughout January and February.

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## CoA Hosts Ruby Bridges Elementary School MLK Day March

CoA's departments of Outreach & Retention and the department of Student Life and Activities collaborated to host Ruby Bridges Elementary School students on Wednesday, January 20, at the end of their annual march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Over 200 K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students spoke in front of the F Building, sharing their "I Have a Dream" speeches they had prepared for the day.

College of Alameda student ambassadors and Student Life administrators and staff hosted the event and handed out College of Alameda binders for the students to use in school this year – and to record their dreams for the future!



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## ATLAS and Maritime Painting Hold Orientations

On January 11, ATLAS (Alameda Transportation Logistics Academic Support) held its orientation for the Transportation – Logistics and Operations (TLO) certificate program. There were several new students present as well as a couple of alumni looking to further their industry certificates. Attendees heard from ATLAS staff about the program and labor market information. They were also informed of other programs on campus, including the One Stop Career Center, student clubs, health services, and the DSPS program. ATLAS staff would like to sincerely thank Rachel Goodwin, DSPS, and Terrell Baker, One Stop Career Center, for speaking to our students directly about what their programs have to offer.



The Maritime Painting Program is back by popular demand! Through the College of Alameda's partnership with Bay Ship & Yacht Co., ATLAS teamed up with Bay Ship to conduct two orientations for this new exciting program. "Bay Ship," as the program has been coined, prepares students to become competitive candidates for painting positions within the maritime field through cultivating work-based learning experiences.

College of Alameda would like to thank Bay Ship & Yacht, Alameda County Workforce Investment board, Oakland Workforce Investment Board, Alameda One Stop and the Unity Council for participating in both orientations.

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## WABA Mixer Leads to Job Placement

On Wednesday, January 27, President Joi Lin Blake and Dean Char Perlas attended the West Alameda Business Association (WABA) Mixer. There were a number of local businesses, government officials and nonprofit representatives present, including the new City of Alameda Economic Development Manager, Lois Butler.

During the mixer, Randie Bradley from the Alameda Point Antiques Faire expressed her desire to hire a College of Alameda student. Specifically, Randie was looking for a Show Setup Assistant to perform light auto mechanic duties (oil change, tire repair, etc.) along with picking up parts and supplies. Nicole Kelly, ATLAS Co-Coordinator, quickly routed the job description through the ATLAS Program and, within two days, ATLAS Student Alan Chester (pictured on right) was interviewed and offered the position.



Congratulations Alan!

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## ASTI Parents Prepare with CoA's Financial Aid Supervisor

On Thursday evening, January 14, ASTI parents joined CoA Financial Aid supervisor Jackie Vo for a Financial Aid informational workshop at the College of Alameda. January and February are FAFSA season, and parents of high schoolers are anxiously gearing up to support their students in making college decisions, preparations and plans.

College of Alameda prides itself on being a full-service community partner, supportive of our ASTI neighbors throughout their academic journeys. Financial Aid nights for parents are just one of the many collaborations we host.



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## ATLAS Hosts First Industry Advisory Council Luncheon

ATLAS (Alameda Transportation Logistics Academic Support) hosted its first Industry Advisory Council (IAC) luncheon for 2016 on January 13. In addition to new and existing employers present, there were also a host of local CoA programs and collaborators in attendance, including the One Stop Career Center. With over 25 attendees giving ATLAS staff constructive industry input, the ATLAS program is adjusting and expanding to meet market demands.

Some of the employers that were present included: BART, Tesla Motors and the Port of Oakland. Employers were asked how they could assist ATLAS students, and all employers agreed to do one or more of the following: provide curriculum development assistance, give facility tours, assist students with mock



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interviews, review student resumes, provide equipment donations, provide ongoing notifications of job and internship openings, provide preferential consideration for hiring, or serve as a guest speaker.

Given the overwhelming feedback about the need for applicants with soft skills such as communication and conflict resolution, ATLAS staff adjusted the Transportation Logistics Operations (TLO) schedule immediately. TLO students attended professional development workshops from January 19-25, just in time for classes to start on January 26. Additional professional development workshops will be offered throughout the semester for ALL CoA students.

If you know of an employer interested in signing up for the Industry Advisory Council, please contact Birch Early at [learly@peralta.edu](mailto:learly@peralta.edu) or Nicole Kelly at [nkelly@peralta.edu](mailto:nkelly@peralta.edu).

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## Coming Soon...Foster Youth Program

The College of Alameda foster youth program, formerly known as Cougar Scholars, will be up and running during the month of March. Thanks to the College being awarded a three year CAFYES grant, services for foster youth will once again be funded. Even though CAFYES Cougar Scholars program is a component of the EOPS/CARE program, the logistics of affirming the hiring of staff, finding a location, etc. will be the main focus during the month of February. The goal is to hold the grand announcement during the month of March. Stay tuned!