



President’s Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees



April 26, 2016

Dr. Joi Lin Blake, President

CoA’s Inaugural High School Scholarship Debate a Success

The first inaugural High School Scholarship Debate was held at College of Alameda on Friday, April 15. The event was held in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Alameda and Girls Inc. of the Island City. CoA Communication instructors Jennifer Fowler and Shirley Brownfox coached the debaters in preparation for the event.

Teen debaters from Alameda High School and Alameda Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) participated in two debates: one about abolishing the electoral college, and another about requiring photo ID for voting.

Ellerbe Whang won a \$500 scholarship as the highest scoring individual speaker, and the team of Ellerbe Whang and Joey Gong won a \$1,000 scholarship as the highest scoring team.

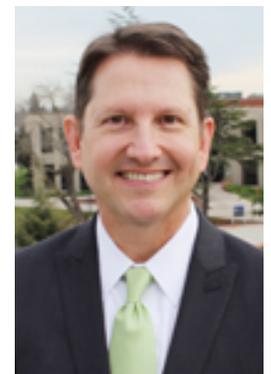


Assemblymember Rob Bonta served as special guest judge, supported by Dr. Joi Lin Blake, CoA President; Helen Hutchinson, League of Women Voters of California President; Jim Oddie, Alameda Councilman; and Steven Fong, Director of Teaching and Learning for Alameda Unified School District. The College of Alameda and Communication Department is proud to have worked with such talented young communicators and debaters.

VPSS Dr. William Watson Selected as Aspen Presidential Fellow

On April 7, the Aspen Institute announced its inaugural class of the Aspen Presidential Fellowship, selecting 40 extraordinary leaders with the drive and capacity to transform community colleges to achieve higher levels of student success. Dr. William Watson, College of Alameda’s Interim Vice President of Student Services, was one of the 40 selected.

The Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence is a highly selective year-long program to prepare leaders aspiring or recently appointed to the community college presidency. Fellows were selected through a rigorous process that considered their abilities to take strategic risks, lead strong teams and cultivate partnerships, and focus on results-oriented improvements for greater student success and access.



Dr. Watson has served as College of Alameda’s Interim Vice President of Student Services since June 2015. He earned a Doctor of Education degree emphasizing social justice and equity from San Francisco State University. He specializes in mitigating economic disparities for greater institutional effectiveness. Dr. Watson’s

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work has been featured by the U.S. Department of Education, Center for Law and Social Policy, Corporation for Enterprise Development, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. Dr. Watson's work has also received the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges' John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award, the College Innovator Award from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and a spotlight on the Discovery Channel's Profiles Series showcasing national solutions to pressing social problems.

Dr. Watson and the other Aspen Fellows will participate in a series of innovative, action-oriented seminars and receive ongoing mentorship focused on a new vision for leadership, delivered in collaboration with Stanford University faculty and top community college leaders. The program begins in July at Stanford University with expected completion in spring 2017. Learn more: aspeninstitute.org/pres-fellowship

Re-naming Contest Takes Unexpected Turn in Name of Unity

On April 7, students in the program formerly known as Project Open Gate selected a new name. This was a student project. In March, students submitted suggestions for the new name with a written rationale, then voting took place at their regular meeting last week. The person whose name was selected was to be awarded a \$200 stipend.

Students voted on April 7, and the name submitted by Student Ambassador Jorge Cabral received the most votes and was proclaimed the winner. His rationale was:

I took some words that best describe my brothers and sisters currently in the program...

*These words are: Dedicated, Ready, Encouraged, Active, & Motivated.
The D.R.E.A.M. Team.*

A team of ex-offenders at the College of Alameda campus, Dedicated and Ready to take Action and Encourage as well as Motivate each other and all those around this team of scholars.



However, that was not the end of the story. What happened next was both unexpected and powerful, as demonstrated by this email from Cabral to Dean Toni Cook:

"...the name was modified as the first example of bringing unity into play. I suggest to combine D.R.E.A.M. TEAM with another suggested name mentioned by [Joe Denham] at the meeting. The other name was NEW START. I figured, it would be best to combine the two together and name it, THE NEW D.R.E.A.M. and split the \$200 between both of us as the first step in bringing unity, structure, and team work.

In order to build a strong foundation, we need the full support of the campus and everyone working in it. We are College of Alameda and should work together as a well built machine. No room to for division. Together we can accomplish things faster and be more effective. Because, at the end of the day, we all need one another for the College to continue to be what I know it can be. If we succeed, the College succeeds.

Let's all put our best foot forward and bring the Family Structure I once felt in Spring 2014 and keep this program alive not for us but for our future kids and the generation after them. More schools and youth programs! Not liquor store and prisons!"

We salute Jorge, Joe, Dr. VanHook and all of the students of **The New D.R.E.A.M.** program and congratulate them on their new name!

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CoA Students Reach for the Future on HBCU Tour

The final week in March, ten CoA students, led by Paula Armstead and Charles Washington, traveled across the country to tour Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. This special opportunity was included in and funded by the CoA Student Equity Plan. By all accounts, it was a life-changing experience for all involved.

Desire Combs is a first year student at College of Alameda. She comes to us as a transfer student from Holy Names University and is an EOPS participant. Desire has aspirations of becoming a nurse practitioner, which has proven to be a difficult feat being that many of the nursing programs in California are impacted.

In the first stint of our tour in New Orleans, Desire fell in love with the small, quaint campus of Dillard University. Dillard University School of Nursing is steeped in history and honor, as it was the first program in Louisiana to offer the Baccalaureate in Nursing. For more than 75 years, Dillard's nursing program has created an environment of educational excellence both here and abroad.

Desire was most impressed with the class sizes, one professor to 15 students. "I love that the classroom sizes are small. It was hard at my last school because the class sizes were so big even though it is considered a small school. I can tell it's like family here." Desire was thoroughly impressed that she could also obtain her Masters in Nursing on Dillard's campus and not have to transfer to another school.

Desire is finishing up her science courses here at College of Alameda and hoping to attend in the fall of 2016. She applied to Dillard right there on the spot and is currently awaiting admittance.



Gabriel Tramble is a 4.0-GPA student who will soon graduate from College of Alameda, majoring in Business Administration. Gabriel has aspirations of developing his own Fortune 500 company. He is already well on his way to making this dream a reality as he has created his own successful internet company that sells high end athletic shoes.

Out of the 10 HBCUs he visited, he initially was most impressed by Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama where he was admitted on the spot and may possibly get a full ride (meaning his housing and tuition will be covered by the university).

Gabriel was also impressed by Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. This prestigious all-male school offers a dynamic School of Business and a thriving campus. "Everybody seems so distinguished and proud, I love the campus and I like the Morehouse people. I can definitely see myself as a Morehouse Man."

Morehouse College School of Business was established in 1938. Its Division of Business Administration & Economics offers a B.A. in Business Administration and a B.A. in Economics. Business administration students can concentrate in accounting, finance, management or marketing, and may also pursue a minor in economics. The Business Administration program prepares students to become successful managers and to develop a leadership perspective.

Gabriel applied for the spring 2017 school year and is awaiting his official acceptance letter. Let's keep our fingers crossed, as Morehouse College is now Gabriel's first-choice college!



CoA Dance Faculty & Students Perform for Governor Brown

The weekend before last, CoA professor Danny Nguyen and his students were invited to perform for a Vietnamese fundraiser in Sacramento at the last minute. Luckily, Governor Jerry Brown walked in right before the group performed. Toward the end of the event, Professor Nguyen asked the Governor to have his photo taken with the students. The students were extremely happy when he agreed.

As a result of this successful performance, one of Governor Brown's staff members has asked Professor Nguyen to perform in Sacramento for Asian Heritage Month in May.



Workability III: A Recipe for Student Success

Former CoA student Ryan Leong began working with SMX Staffing at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Newark for the holiday rush last November. As a Warehouse Associate, Ryan sorts, scans and palletizes your valuable customer orders for delivery.

Ryan came to the campus through Workability, a cooperative program between CoA and the CA Department of Rehabilitation. As a participant, Ryan attended employment preparation classes and weekly Job Club sessions with Instructor Jean Rowland. The next step in his job search was resume and cover letter development with Program Assistant Laura Vacca. Ryan's Job Developer, Nadeesha Dias, encouraged him to apply to SMX Staffing at Amazon and arranged for support services as needed on-site after he was hired.

Ryan continues to gain experience and perform at peak levels. In his 5 months on the job, he has been twice recognized by their Internal Incentive Program for his consistently high scan rates. We congratulate Ryan and wish him continued success.

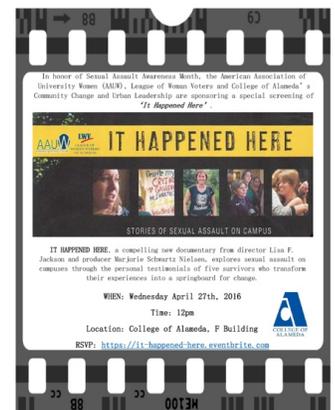


UPCOMING EVENTS AT COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

"It Happened Here" Film Screening, 4/27

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, College of Alameda's Center for Community Change and Urban Leadership is joining with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and League of Women Voters to sponsor a special screening of *It Happened Here*. Join us next **Wednesday, April 27** at noon, in F Building.

It Happened Here, a compelling new documentary film from director Lisa F. Jackson and producer Marjorie Schwartz Nielsen, explores sexual assault on campuses through the personal testimonials of five survivors who transform their experiences into a springboard for change. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/screening-of-it-happened-here-tickets-19363619106>



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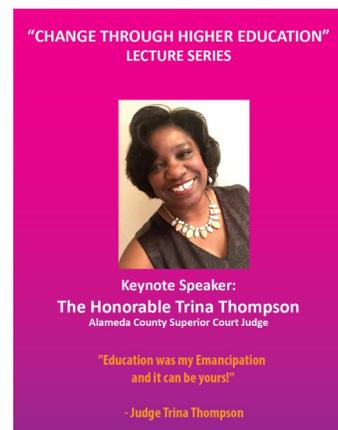
Lecture Features The Hon. Trina Thompson, 4/29

Please join us Friday, April 29 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Building F as College of Alameda EOPS/ CARE/ CAFYES presents the “Metamorphosis: “Change Through Higher Education” Lecture Series, featuring Keynote Speaker The Honorable Trina Thompson.

The Hon. Trina Thompson is an Alameda Superior Court Judge currently assigned to the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse near Lake Merritt, where she handles felony jury trials and multiple co-defendant homicide trials. She has also served as the Presiding Judge of the Alameda County Juvenile Court and as Supervising Judge of the Wiley Manual Courthouse. In 2011 she was appointed by President Obama and sworn in to serve as Practitioner Member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Judge Thompson has practiced law for over 25 years, lectures nationally, has served as a legal commentator for the media and is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. She also lectures for the Ethnic Studies department at UC Berkeley. She was recently featured in the documentary film *In the Red*, which is about transformation and about growing up poor, young and black in America.

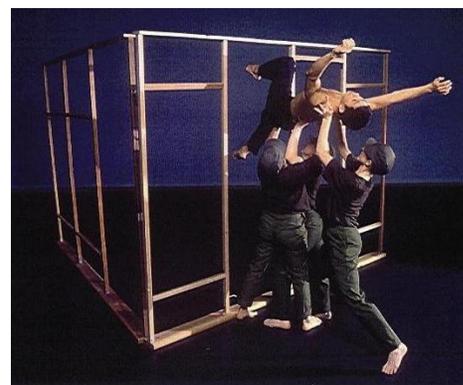
“Education was my emancipation and it can be yours!” – Judge Thompson



CoA Dance Department Presents "Whisper of Hope," 4/30

Please join Professor Danny Nguyen and the College of Alameda Dance Department on Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St, Oakland. This is our 20th annual production and features all dance classes which draw from both experienced and inexperienced students. Admission is free and open to the public.

"Whisper of Hope" provides all dance students with the opportunity to perform and build confidence in their skills. The students comprise a diverse group with different ages and physical abilities, offering a unique blend of athleticism, elegance, and sheer joy. The evening will close with "The Escaped," and "I'm Still Alive," a particularly moving tribute dedicated to the thousands of Vietnamese Boat People who died at sea trying to escape, clinging nothing more than a whisper of hope.



MESA Center Hosts Open House, 5/4

The MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Center invites you all to its Spring 2016 Open House, on Wednesday, May 4 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the MESA Center, Room 125, Science Annex, 860 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda.



Come see the MESA Center and learn about the MESA program and its services and benefits for all Peralta College students. You can learn how to join the program or to refer students. This event will include light refreshments, great conversation, and good energy!

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