



**Message From the Director**

By Gary Schwartzwald

As I mentioned in the Winter Newsletter this year’s Outstanding Adult Students, Instructors, and Staff (OASIS) Awards ceremony will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon.



2012 OASIS Award Winners

Thank you to all of you who have nominated Teacher, Students, and Staff. Our selection committee made some very difficult decisions but we are thrilled to be honoring 9 students, 7 teachers, 4 staff members, 1 Community Partner, and 2 Adult Education Hall of Fame Inductees. We will have raffle prizes, fabulous desserts, and beautiful awards to hand out. We expect everyone will have a terrific time. The 2013 OASIS Award winners are:

*Student Award Recipients*

- Aymen Alnaes
- Izett Barnett
- Kara Burke
- Darrel Doliber
- Helga Doliber
- Susan Hewitt

- Frank Kuoja
  - Alma Martinez
  - Elvira Martinez
  - Laura Williams
- Instructor Award Recipients*

- Beverly Downing
- Marian Kubota
- Bill Orsini
- Georginne Parisi
- Patsy Roeder
- Ed Schaffroth
- Kim Whitacre

*Staff Award Recipients*

- Myrna Ames
- Vicki Gagliardi
- Lydia Jones
- Renee Schendel

*Community Partner Award Recipient*

- Joanne Schroeder

*Hall of Fame Recipients*

- Colette Fleming
- Larry Timmons

On the evening of April 23<sup>rd</sup> we held our annual Community Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting was held at our Health Occupations Center and we had more than 45 attendees. We provided community members with an in depth overview of Grossmont Adult Education and each of our Adult Education Center Principals provided a brief overview of the programs they oversee. **Vicki Gagliardi** did an outstanding job providing the community members with an overview of our WASC Accreditation Process. After Vicki’s WASC presentation I discussed Adult Ed funding at the State and Local levels. More of that to come later in this newsletter.

During the advisory meetings we received input from our community on how we can change and adjust what we do, to improve our programs and services. I am very grateful to our supportive community members who took the time to join us and provide us with their valuable input. Special thanks go to **Vicki Gagliardi** for all her help organizing the meeting, to **Carol Otjens** and HOC staff for hosting a third year in a row, and to **Renee Schendel** for getting the facilities ready and for making the evening run smoothly.

The District held their annual Golden Apple Awards Ceremony on Monday, April 29th. **Dianna Harshman** was recognized as the Grossmont Adult Education Golden Apple Award winner. Please make time to congratulate Dianna on this honor for her dedication to teaching and her students.



#### **Now for a budget update.**

When Prop 30 was approved by California voters in November, many of us were very hopeful that the budget woes and worries in public education were behind us. Unfortunately, that is not the case for adult education. There are numerous aspects to the Governor's 2013-14 budget proposal that he shared in January, and school districts and educational programs like ours are impacted in different ways.

As I am sure you know, one of the proposals in the Governor's January budget is to shift K-12 Adult Education to the Community Colleges. That proposal has been embraced by some, and opposed by others. At this point, among others, the Legislative Analyst Office, ACSA, and, of course, our professional organization CCAE are opposing this shift away from K-12 districts as providers of Adult Education. The Governor will issue a revised budget in May and a final budget in June. Between now and the May Revise of the budget, much can, and probably will, change. We can speculate what the changes may be, but of course no one will know until the Governor shares his May Revise.

Therefore, our District needs to plan their budget on what is currently in the Governor's proposed budget. Although we all hope that the fiscal outlook will improve, we cannot budget on our hopes.

As of now the plan is that our district will be significantly decreasing the dollar amount available to Grossmont Adult School during the 2013-14 school year. Therefore the Adult Ed administrative team needs to come up with ways to significantly decrease our spending for next year. Like you, we too feel the stress and anxiety that comes with these thoughts, discussions, and actions. I assure you that we will continue to make every effort to protect people and programs as much as possible and try to cut spending in other areas, as well as transfer funds that are not supporting staff.

That said, we still need to take an in-depth look at programs that have limited enrollment, and/or are not cost effective. There is no joy in this for anyone, and we will do our best to make logical decisions, with a kind heart. I apologize that I am the bearer of bad news, but it is unavoidable. As our planning progresses and we decide what changes we need to make, we will keep you informed as much as possible. If you have questions or ideas, please contact me or your Principal.

At the end of this Newsletter you will find a Resolution that our Governing Board passed in support of Adult Education and you will also find a letter that our Superintendent sent, along with the Board Resolution, to the Governor and the State Superintendent of Instruction.

Thank you for all your hard work. We value you and the work you do to bring Adult Education to the community. Thank you for your dedication and for another great year for Grossmont Adult Education. Finish strong.



## Foothills Adult Center By Jeff Meredith



**Anna Lancia's** Adult 55+ quilting class that meets at Foothills and the Santee Civic Center participated in the 28th Annual Woman's Club of Lakeside Quilting Show. The show was held at the VFW Post in Lakeside on March 8th and 9th. Anna's students showed over 80 of their quilts and students were also able to sell several of their handmade quilts.

One of our new Super Saturday classes was a big hit, iPad for Beginners was held on April 20th. This class was sold out the first day of registration. **James Mitchell** a technology teacher from El Cajon Valley High School was our instructor. With the success of this class we are looking to expand some of our offerings to our students looking for additional instruction with these high tech and popular devices.

17th Annual Family University is coming to Foothills Adult School on Saturday, May 18th from 8:30am-12:30pm. This year's theme is "Down on the Farm". Family University is open to children ages eight and under to come with their parents for some exciting entertainment, activities, crafts, book fair, and much more. This annual event is sponsored by our Parent Education teachers throughout Adult Education.

## Health Occupations Center Holds Bi-Annual Blood Drive By Carol Otjens



Did you know that every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood?

Did you know that more than 4,000 blood donations are needed every day?

On April 10, 2013, HOC hosted a blood drive with the American Red Cross. 30 students, teachers, and staff, and family members participated in this event. We collected 23 pints of blood; which could save the lives of as many as 66 members of our community! Staff and

students recruited for the event for over a week. The safe and simple process was held in our EMT room. Music was playing and the atmosphere was relaxing and fun. Throughout the day donors registered, gave blood, and sat with other donors afterwards to chat and enjoy some refreshments. You could see a constant stream of students and teachers from classes like: Medical Assisting, Dental Assisting, Phlebotomy, Veterinary Assisting, Nurse Assistant, Computer Skills for the Workplace, Medical Terminology, Healthcare Interpreting, and many others. This event gave all the medical students a chance to not only learn about blood types and the process of donating, it also allowed them time to learn about the importance of blood donations, and the career opportunities for them to consider.



Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for October 28, 2013. Everyone is invited! We will send out details and information closer to the event. So, roll up your sleeves and we'll see you then!



## Community Outreach and Building Partnerships By Sheila Davis



El Cajon Adult Center has begun a tradition of being involved in many community events. We are hopeful that our students look beyond English classes and look for ways to be of service in their communities. Our administration has partnered with other agencies to provide additional learning opportunities to our students.

For the second year in a row, we have been a part of the Multicultural Family Fiesta at the El Cajon Library. This annual event took place on Saturday, April 13. The Fiesta was from 12-3 pm and offered free entertainment, refreshments, prizes, and crafts. Our team of volunteers - ESL teachers and students - answered questions and promoted the ESL program and other Grossmont Adult School programs.

Information was shared with over 200 people. Everyone received the current Grossmont Adult School class schedule. We also distributed Pre-Lit. level booklets to children. Of course, we also enjoyed food, music, and dancers representing the Middle Eastern and Mexican cultures in East County.

Project SHINE is an ESL class in partnership with Cuyamaca College. Project SHINE focuses on helping refugees acquire healthcare education. Participants are adult refugees who have been in the U.S. for less than 5 years and live in East County. Our own ESL teacher, **Jenna Balsley**, and tutors from Cuyamaca College, instruct students on how to express basic personal information. Topics covered include: visiting the doctor's office, managing illnesses, healthy aging, and hospital/patient rights.

Thank you to all the ESL teachers who encourage our students to volunteer for school and community events. Keep your ears open for more opportunities in the near future.



### Spring Happenings at Steele Canyon Adult Center

By Tim Lindley



Spring has "sprung" and the students and the staff at Steele Canyon Adult Center are "springing" into action out in the community again.

**Drew Bandish** (Art teacher at La Mesa Enrichment Center) had a couple of his students from La Mesa Enrichment Center classes win awards for their entries in the San Diego Watercolor Society Exhibition in February 2013. Always nice to see our students being recognized for what they learn in their classes.

**Ed Schaffroth** (Photography teacher at the Helix Learning Center) had his Photography classes' student work out in the community for display this spring. Ed's students' work was on display at the Rancho San Diego County Library in April. Great job Ed!

**Sandy Thompson** (Quilting teacher at Steele Canyon Adult Center) has gone into the book publishing business relating to her Quilting classes. Sandy recently released a quilting book entitled "Save the Selvages". The book is being sold at local quilt shops. Congratulations Sandy and good luck with the book!



### WASC Update

By Jennifer Owens



Less than 345 days to go!!

Our WASC preparations are accelerating at a rapid pace as the days are speedily counting down. The Extended Leadership Team has been meeting together monthly as well as in their assigned focus groups. They have logged many hours and have done a phenomenal job addressing the areas of focus within their assigned criterion.

Our most recent meeting was Friday, April 26, 2013. At this meeting, the Mission Statement as well as the Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs) were presented for input and approval. In addition, the WASC Process PowerPoint **Vicki Gagliardi** presented at the Community Advisory Meeting on Tuesday, April 23 was shared with the ELT.

Some of the data we need to write our report can only be collected by surveying students and staff. We are in the process of creating these surveys so they can be distributed within the next few weeks. The information gathered from these surveys is crucial for the accreditation report as well as serving our students. When these surveys arrive in your mailbox, please assist us in their distribution, completion, and collection in a timely manner. This is a VERY busy WASC semester.

We plan on writing the majority of our report over the summer. Our next update will be at the Back to School night in August. I am looking forward to sharing with all of you what we have accomplished and what remains to be done.

As always, it is an honor to be part of this process. I cannot thank the members of the ELT enough for their dedication and enthusiasm during this process.

As always, I am extending an open invitation to anyone who would like to contribute to the WASC process. It is a true reflection of the many ways in which we address the needs of our students and community with a determination to provide the best educational opportunities and experience.



### CCAIE Update By Vicki Gagliardi



We had a great turnout for our fundraiser at Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant in March. We earned \$119.47 with our purchases but Nicolosi's was very generous and increased the donation to \$150. That is one whole teacher's grant for next year! Thank you to everyone who attended and most especially Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant.



April 17, 2013 was Legislation Day (referred to as Leg Day) for CCAIE. Our Grossmont Chapter was fortunate to send four members to Sacramento. **Marjorie Archibald, Charlene**

**Bader, Jennifer Owens,** and I met with six legislators and/or their staff. I think we were all impressed with the groundwork and preparation that was made by our CCAIE Legislative Advocate, Dawn Koepke. Each representative we met with was very familiar and supportive of Adult Education. The representatives confirmed that their vote was to leave Adult Education with the K-12 system rather than switching it over to the Community College. This is a huge positive step for Adult Education.

Senator Liu has worked with CCAIE and CAEAA (another Adult Ed organization for Adult Ed Administrators) to author a bill (SB173) outlining some policy changes that address the Governor's concerns about the

Adult Ed delivery system. This bill was heard and passed in the Education committee while we were at the capitol. That was very exciting! This bill will now be introduced to the whole house. If it is approved, it will be sent to the Assembly for discussion and a vote. These program changes do not change the funding but helps it along quite a bit.

The discussion taking place now is whether to give Adult Ed dedicated funding or leave it in flexibility. Of course, we are hoping that the governor pulls us out of flexibility. Flexibility leaves the funding for the Adult Ed program up to each District's discretion. Grossmont Adult School is very fortunate that we have a lot of support from our District. Not all Adult Schools have the same support. Numerous programs around the state have been stripped to the bare bones and many have even shut down. The Governor's January proposal designated \$300 million for the colleges to coordinate with K-12 and set up their Adult Ed program. CCAIE is now fighting to have that \$300 million stay with Adult Ed so we can rebuild what has broken down.

Speaking for myself, Leg Day was an eye opener! I saw what an impact being a CCAIE member has on Adult Ed. I never considered the political aspect of my membership. I just thought having fun, getting together with co-workers, and giving out a scholarship or two was what it was all about. After my visit to Sacramento, I see that our membership dues are being well spent on our Legislative Advocate. I'm not sure what position Adult Ed would be in without someone lobbying on our behalf. Dawn is playing a big part in saving Adult Ed for us. CCAIE is fighting the fight! I hope you join CCAIE when we have our membership drive at the Back-to-School meeting. Our job may depend on it. We bring a united front. Every member counts.

**Grossmont Adult School  
Important Dates**

Date	Event
May 3	OASIS Awards ceremony
May 18	Family University
May 27	Memorial Day Observance
June 7	Spring session ends
June 7	Summer schedule is bulk mailed
June 11	Graduation ceremony
June 12	Summer registration begins
June 29	Super Saturday
July 1	Summer session begins
July 4	Independence Day Observation
Aug 3	Summer session ends
Aug 16	Fall schedule is bulk mailed
Aug 21	Fall registration begins
Aug 28	Back-to-School meeting
Sept 3	Fall session begins



• GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

RICHARD HOY  
JIM KELLY  
PRISCILLA SCHREIBER  
ROBERT SHIELD  
JIM STIERINGER

• SUPERINTENDENT

RALF SWENSON

April 16, 2013

Governor Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown and California Legislators:

As Superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) and on behalf of the District's Governing Board, I urge you to keep Adult Education under the purview of K-12 districts. The Legislative Analyst's Office made clear statements about the strengths that both K-12 and Community Colleges provide in educating our adults. Further, it is fiscally wise to maintain basic skills and secondary education in the K-12 setting while focusing the community colleges on post-secondary learning.

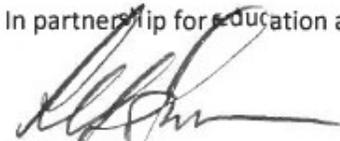
Our adult school, Grossmont Adult School, which has been in existence since 1946, serves over 33,000 adult students per year during this time of Tier III flexibility. Grossmont Adult School provides basic skills education, English language and citizenship instruction, and multiple learning opportunities through various job preparation courses. In addition, our school provides programs in Adult Secondary Education and Family Literacy.

Located in San Diego County, our district is proud to assist in our local communities' economic recovery by providing high school diplomas, GED Certificates and workplace certification to adults needing services in their local neighborhoods, a great example of local control currently in place.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2013, the GUHSD Governing Board unanimously passed the enclosed Resolution (2013-39). This resolution expresses our Board and District's support for these programs as well as the value we place in our Adult School's service to our high school students who number over 23,000 per year. Our commitment has sustained a full complement of services in a variety of program areas despite the option for fund flexibility.

Through Resolution (2013-39), we urge the Governor, Legislature and the California Department of Education to retain Adult Education Programs with oversight by K-12 districts.

In partnership for education all Californians,



Ralf Swenson  
District Superintendent

Enclosure

c: Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
California Department of Education

**GROSSMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION 2013-39**

**In Support of Retaining Adult Education in K-12**

**WHEREAS**, The first recorded adult education class in California was held in the basement of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer teacher for the class, later became a State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, Adult Schools have been called upon on numerous occasions to assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and economic issues. Examples include: job training programs during the Great Depression; training skilled and under skilled workers during World War II; and preparing millions of residents for citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, Adult education in California faces it's biggest challenge because of the severe economic crisis facing both the state and the nation. Funding that was previously reserved to adult education has been redistributed to other levels of education in the state. This has resulted in many adult schools decreasing in size, and the actual closing of some schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Grossmont Adult School better serves East San Diego County and the surrounding communities by remaining in the K-12 Educational System. Grossmont Adult School served 33,145 students in the 2011-2012 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, Grossmont Adult School provides significant and varied classes and programs to serve East San Diego County and the surrounding communities, including: Computer Classes, Job Preparation Classes; High School Diploma and GED Programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Parent Education Classes, Citizenship Classes, Healthcare Training and classes for Older Adults; and

**WHEREAS**, Grossmont Adult School served 3,498 students in the High School Diploma and GED Programs in the 2011-2012 school year. The programs help minimize the high school dropout rate. 112 students earned their high school diploma, and 896 students earned their GED in the 2011-2012 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, Grossmont Adult School served 3,637 students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program in the 2011-2012 school year, and parents enrolled in ESL classes learn how to assist their children with school work and dedicate several hours a year tutoring their own children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board of the Grossmont Union High School District strongly supports retaining Adult Education as an important part of the Grossmont Union High School District.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Governing of the Grossmont Union High School District strongly urges the Governor of California, Jerry Brown, and the California Department of Education to retain Adult Education programs in the current configuration with oversight by K-12 grade or high school districts in California.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 10th day of April 2013, by the Governing Board of the Grossmont Union High School District of La Mesa, California, by the following vote:

AYES: Hoy, Kelly, Schreiber, Shield and Stieringer  
NOES: none  
ABSENT: none

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
                                  ) SS.  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO )

I, Priscilla Schreiber, Clerk of the Governing Board of the Grossmont Union High School District of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution passed and adopted by the Governing Board at a regularly called and conducted meeting held on said date.

  
Priscilla Schreiber, Clerk