



## Message From the Director

By Gary Schwartzwald



I hope you are having a wonderful start to the school year. I imagine that by the time you read this the school year may not feel that new.

First off I want to thank you for the tact and grace you have displayed with your students regarding the increase of our fees. All of us realize the challenges in raising our fees this fall and I appreciate each of you not only understanding this difficult decision, but effectively explaining the situation to your students. Overall our students have been concerned, but they have also been very supportive and understanding.

We are moving forward to meet the purpose described in Assembly Bill 86 which is to provide grants to fund and implement regional consortium to provide adults in our region with educational programs and services. It is very unfortunate that AB86 is limiting which Adult Education programs it will fund. We have raised fees in an effort to retain as many classes as possible. AB86 lists the following program areas:

- ABE/GED/HS Diploma
- ESL
- Citizenship
- Adult with Disabilities
- Career Technical Education
- Apprenticeships

To find the latest information regarding AB86, please go to the following link:

<http://ab86.cccco.edu/>

As **Jennifer Owens** mentioned at our Back to School meeting, our WASC visit is approaching very quickly. It was fun and rewarding to see Jennifer lead the staff in reciting our Mission Statement and SLOs. WASC is a lot of work, but the work we do throughout this process is extremely valuable and will help guide Grossmont Adult School over the next six years. I encourage you to participate and value your input and expertise. I know Jennifer will keep you informed.

Teachers will soon receive a letter offering the opportunity to contribute to our Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank. Donating to the sick leave bank is optional, although you are required to donate before you can draw from the bank. The Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank is designed to help those who are going through a prolonged illness, and donations will close on November 20<sup>th</sup>. My wish is that no one ever has the need for additional sick leave, but I am very happy we can help anyone who does have that need.

Thank you all for your dedication. You make a difference in your student's lives and our school. Take care.



## Styling for Success in the Workplace

By Phyllis Ruth

On Tuesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> the East County Career Center's Business Services partnered with Goodwill Industries to present a new and innovative workshop called "Styling for Success in the Workplace." Topics covered were; developing a workplace clothing wardrobe, what is business formal, business casual and casual, do's and don'ts of interview clothing, dress codes for the workplace, networking styles verses interview styles and



resources for clothing and job search. Thirty-five (35) career center members attended and really enjoyed the workshop.

A follow-up Styling for Success Clothing Boutique was on Friday, Sept. 13 was organized once again by the East County Career Center's Business Services and Goodwill Industries. Interview suits were donated by career center staff, local Chamber of Commerces, East County business service club members, San Diego Soroptimists, and the East County Senior Providers Group. Twenty-six (26) women were beautifully outfitted for the workplace with 2-3 suits. Later in the month several of the women who attended Styling for Success used their gently used interview outfits to interview in and attend various job fairs. A future Styling for Success workshop and Boutique will be planned in 2014 for both women and men.



### Community Involvement Through Volunteerism

By Sheila Davis



For the second consecutive year, El Cajon Adult Center participated in the Spring Valley Library Fiesta. This year's Fiesta, which celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, was held on Sept 21. Various agencies and businesses disseminated information. Giveaways and raffle prizes made for a steady crowd of people. A team of teachers and one very special student volunteer, Sra. Gloria, came out to promote Grossmont Adult School. The team handed out catalogs and answered questions.

El Cajon Library hosts a similar event called the Multicultural Fiesta in April. Please come and support us as we have a presence there as well. If your program area would like to participate, contact the El Cajon Library.

As part of the Student Council's vision of building a sense of community through volunteerism, our students and staff had our Campus Clean-Up. Staff and dozens of student volunteers got together on Saturday, Oct. 12, at our main site, 1035 E. Madison Ave. Snacks and drinks were provided while students worked together to clean and beautify their

school campus. Drive by, see the improvements, and feel the school pride.

Thank you to all our hard-working teachers and staff who support the Student Council's efforts. Future Student Council activities include a Food Drive in November and ongoing charitable community work. We have learned from experience that if everyone gives a little, it amounts to a lot.



### From Students to Teachers

By Carol Otjens



On any given day, the Health Occupations Center is bustling with students excited to get to their medical class of choice. Whether they are learning to be a Medical Assistant, a nurse, or a Pharmacy Technician, students are excited to be learning skills that will take them directly into the workplace. This Adult School campus is full of success stories!

Previously, some excited students completed their program, went to work in the healthcare industry and have now returned to HOC as instructors. Their passion for the medical field, knowledge of the topic, and motivation to bring more specialized workers into the industry drives them to be proud HOC teachers every day! Here are some success stories of the path from Student to Teacher:

- In 1981 **Beverly Downing's** mother suggested that Bev take a class at HOC to learn to be a Unit Clerk. Beverly's mom knew that HOC was good, because she herself took the Certified Nurse Assisting class through HOC in 1953! Bev signed up, completed the class and has been working at Grossmont Hospital for 32 years. Bev has been teaching students medical administrative topics at HOC since early 1990.
- **Dave Picone** took the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) class in 1990. Dave used his skills to get into firefighting; he is now a Captain in the San Diego Fire Dept. Dave is the lead instructor for the many CPR classes taught at HOC.

- **Diana Harshman** took the Dental Assisting program in 1992. She took her state boards and worked as an RDA in East County. Diana came back to teach in 1998 and now runs a very successful Dental Assisting program. Diana was the also Adult Education Golden Apple winner in 2013!
- **Esther Bunce** took the CNA program, then the vocational nursing (VN) program, and the IV Therapy class at HOC. She is now a Registered Nurse with Kaiser and an instructor in the VN program. Esther's daughter Ashley took the CNA program and is currently in the VN program as well.
- **Ed Whipple** took the Advanced Cardiac Life Support class and the RN Refresher program at HOC. He is now the lead instructor for the RN Refresher class while also working at Grossmont Hospital.
- **Maria Chavez** graduated from the Medical Assisting class in 2004. She has worked in the Neighborhood Healthcare Clinics and is now an instructor for the Medical Assisting program.
- Other current HOC teachers that have similar stories are: **Carol Curl** (Phlebotomy), **Barbara Brock** (VN), Robin Palmer (Medical Asst.), **Bonni Arnold** (VN), and **Raylene Phipps-Markwell** (VN).



Amazing things are happening at HOC! Students completing classes and receiving certifications, becoming vital components of the healthcare team in a medical facility, and then returning to teach others with the same dream! We are so proud of all of our

students at the Health Occupations Center; but especially those that return as instructors!



### Excitement Aplenty!

By Jeff Meredith



It turned out to be a very interesting day for one of our Parent Ed. Teachers, **Elizabeth Greene**. She left her house on Labor Day to head over to Murdock Elementary School (just few blocks away) to put the finishing touches on her classes that were ready to start the next day. As she was about to enter her classroom a call came from home that there was gunfire coming from the house across the street from her home. Not knowing much more she closed the gate to the school parking lot and locked herself in her classroom. It did not take long for a sea of Sheriff and SWAT officers to arrive on the scene. They quickly took over her classroom and made it their command post. Victims, witnesses, and SWAT negotiators moved in and out of her classroom the rest of the day. She spent a total of six hours in her classroom, was allowed to leave but could not go home. Some friends took her in for the evening and luckily she was able to get back into her home early the next morning to shower and change. I am happy to report that she made it to school the next morning on time but thinks that next Labor Day, Elizabeth will head to the beach.

CCAЕ

## Winter Social

December 6, 2013

6:00 pm

*Marechiaro's Italian Restaurant*

*Lake Jennings Park Road*

*El Cajon*

More info to follow!





Good things are happening in CCAE. Our 2013-14 Board met for the first time in July. We identified the goals for this school year.

- Increase membership by 15%
- Continue to provide scholarships and grants
  - Teacher grants (4 at \$100 each)
  - Student scholarship (1 at \$500)
  - Student GED fee scholarships (4 @ \$140 each)
- Increase legislative involvement
- Continue with social events
  - Friday Fling
  - Winter Social
- Fund conference scholarships

Our annual Back-to-School meeting was very successful for CCAE.

- The combination of our membership drive and letters to previous members has resulted in 83 members. We met our chapter goal of 15%!
- We earned \$360 in the handmade “almost Taylor” guitar raffle. We made approximately \$800 for the night. Thank you to all that supported CCAE by purchasing tickets.



We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual F<sup>3</sup> (Fourth Friday Fling) event on September 27. We met at Por Favor in El Cajon. CCAE provided appetizers and attendees purchased their own drinks of choice. There were 28 people in attendance and everyone had a great time. On a Friday night! There is no stopping CCAE!

Sixteen CCAE Classroom Grant applications were submitted. We picked four winners of the grant. Most were for classroom supplies for

academic classes (**Pat Andersen, Al Humble, Lesley Kennedy**) but one unique winner was for holiday music for **Linda Berg’s** singing class. They do holiday performances in the residential homes and needed new music and notebooks. We are extremely happy to award these grants and check that off as a goal completed.

**Jeff Meredith** threw down a bowling challenge at the BTS meeting. CCAE wasn’t going to be left out of the loop so we created our own team of **Anne Jones, Mike Whittaker, Jennifer Owens, Gary Schwartzwald, Elisia Cresap,** and yours truly! It’s a one game, one winner, bragging rights game! Wish us luck.

Save the date for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Social on December 6. We’ve moved the event to Marechiaro’s off Highway 8. Watch for an invitation in your mailbox sometime in November. If you talk to anyone who attended last year, they’ll tell you how much fun they had. I hope you can join us this year.

Grossmont Adult School Important Dates	
Date	Event
Nov 22	Winter schedule mailed
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving recess
Dec 4	Winter registration
Dec 6	CCAE Winter Social
Dec 16-Jan 3	Winter Recess
Jan 6	First day of Winter classes
Jan 20	Martin Luther King holiday
Feb 14	Lincoln’s birthday ( <b>NOTE:</b> This is different than the high schools!)
Feb 17	President’s holiday
Feb 26	Spring registration
Mar 17	Spring classes begin
Mar 24-26	WASC Visitation
Apr 7-18	Spring Break



## WASC Update

By Jennifer Owens



We're rolling along and things couldn't be better. You should have received an email from me a few weeks ago with the most current newsletter containing the WASC updates!! If you didn't, please email me at [jlowens@quhsd.net](mailto:jlowens@quhsd.net) with your correct email address and I'll send it to you right away. The newsletter is also posted on the Adult School Website under About Us – Accreditation. It's really good stuff!! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

As we count down the WEEKS until the report gets finalized and sent off to the printer, we're excited about the progress we've made. More importantly, we're eager to begin making the changes we've identified to make Grossmont Adult School the best it can be for our students.

Yes, you will be receiving posters with the Mission Statement and SLOs for your classrooms. I haven't forgotten. I promise.

Here is our Mission Statement and SLOs. It is important that we keep the goals expressed here in mind as we serve our students.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring our accreditation process is a success. As always, contact me about anything you'd like. (Even if it is just to tell me you read this message!!)

## Mission Statement

The mission of Grossmont Adult School is to enrich the lives of our community members by providing high quality, affordable, lifelong educational opportunities; fulfilling personal, academic, and workplace goals for an increasingly diverse population.

## Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs)

### Self-Directed Lifelong Learners who:

- Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning
- Acquire knowledge and skills appropriate to their stage of life
- Seek continuing academic, career training, and/or employment opportunities
- Utilize critical thinking and problem-solving skills

### Effective Communicators who:

- Express oneself in a variety of social, academic, and workplace settings
- Utilize technology and social media to communicate effectively
- Develop an increased understanding of and appreciation for our diverse community

### Productive, Involved Citizens, Parents, and Workers who:

- Achieve personal, academic, and workplace goals
- Participate in civic activities to contribute to the wellbeing of the community