



## Message From the Director

By Gary Schwartzwald



As I type this, for most of us, it is the 6<sup>th</sup> week of Adult School classes, and for me the time has flown by. I hope your start to the school year is going well. In this issue you will see updates on AB86 and the work taking place on that initiative. AB86 has and will continue to impact Adult Education, as well as how we educate adults, not only in Grossmont, but up and down the state.

As you know we have also been hoping, and working diligently toward secure funding for K-12 Adult Education throughout the State. I am impressed that the Grossmont Adult School family will send the Governor nearly 1,000 letters asking for his support of Adult Education. Future funding is still undecided and once the Governor releases his January budget, we will have an indication of what the future holds for Adult Education in California. For now, the reality continues to be that our budget for this school year is extremely tight, and we do not know what the future will hold. That said, I remain optimistic, cautiously optimistic, but I think, and certainly hope our funding will stabilize. Please keep doing a great job with your students, and spreading the word of what great programs we offer to our community.

Within the next week or two teachers will once again receive a letter offering the opportunity to contribute to our Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank. Donating to the Sick Leave Bank is optional, but you are required to donate before you can draw from the bank. 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.

Also in this newsletter you will see a WASC update from our WASC Chair (*and loving it*) **Jennifer Owens**. I know she has also sent each of you a WASC Newsletter to keep you informed and involved in our continued efforts with WASC. Grossmont Adult has done a magnificent job with WASC and I am happy to see that work continue.

Take care and keep up your fantastic work for our community.

Grossmont Adult School Important Dates	
Date	Event
October 22	Term 1/Winter registration
November 7	Term 1 classes end
November 10	Term 2 classes begin
November 11	Veteran's Day (no classes)
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving recess
December 5	CCAE Winter Social
December 12	Fall classes end
Dec 15-Jan 2	Winter Recess
January 5	Winter classes begin
January 14	Term 3/Spring registration
January 19	Martin Luther King holiday
January 24	Super Saturday
January 30	Term 2 classes end
February 2	Term 3 classes begin
Feb 13	Lincoln's birthday ( <b>NOTE:</b> This is different than the high schools!)
Feb 16	President's holiday
March 20	Winter classes end
Mar 23-Apr 3	Spring break



**AB86 Update**  
By Tim Lindley



As you know, Grossmont Adult School has joined with the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District to form a consortium and apply for the AB86 Adult Education Consortium Planning Grant. Your administration team started working on this grant process in February 2014. The grant funding is to be utilized for planning the 2015-16 school year when Adult Education, through consortia's, should once again receive direct funding from the State of California.

This past summer under the guidance of our grant consultant (**Tonette Salter**) we started the process of forming the San Diego East Region Adult Education Consortium (SDERAEC). The following Grossmont Adult School staff are your representatives on these committees:

- ABE/GED/HS DIPLOMA
  - **Jeff Meredith**
  - **Susie Taylor**
  - **Karen Northrup**
  - **Gladys Uri**
  - **Leslie Kennedy**
- ESL/CITIZENSHIP
  - **Robyn Wiggins**
  - **Mary Wilson**
  - **Tim Wells**
  - **Wendy Hewitt**
  - **Robin Richter**
  - **Danielle Griffith**
- ADULT WITH DISABILITIES
  - **Tim Lindley**
  - **Joan Anderson-Smith**
  - **Donna Bravo**
- CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION
  - **Carol Otjens**
  - **Tony Villagomez**
  - **Neda Shuku**
  - **Margie Archibald**
  - **Bill Niklaus**
- APPRENTICESHIPS
  - **Steve Niemeyer**
  - **Marian Kubota**

These committees have successfully filed their first required report to the state on July 31<sup>st</sup> and they are currently working diligently on preparing the next report due on October 31<sup>st</sup>. These committees are meeting weekly. These reports are necessary to ensure that Adult Education and in particular, Grossmont Adult School, is included in the Governor's Budget released in January 2015.

To find the latest information regarding AB86, please go to the following link:  
<http://ab86.cccco.edu/>



**ECCC**  
By Steve Niemeyer



In August the East County Career Center (ECCC) started a partnership with XL Staffing, one of our East County business partners. They are coming to the Career Center once per month and recruiting our clients to fill job openings that they currently have. About ten days prior to their coming they will send us an email listing what types of jobs they are recruiting for, and then we send out the call to our job seekers.

On September 10th the Career Center hosted a "Companies Hiring in San Diego" event. Over 100 job seekers came to hear from a panel representing: AccentCare, Cajon Valley School District, City of San Diego, Goodwill Industries, H & R Block, Senator Joel Anderson's Internship program, UCSD, Ultimate Staffing and Viejas Casino.

On Thursday, September 12th the Career Center held a recruiting event for Transdev, a sub-contractor for the Metropolitan Transit System. We were pleased to learn that they hired seven people from those who attended the event. Those selected will be entering bus driver training soon!

On September 18th, the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) unanimously approved a customized training program that is collaboration between the East County Career

Center and Quality Controlled Manufacturing, Inc. (QCMI). QCMI, located in Santee, is a manufacturer of precision parts, and the training program will enable the company to train and hire qualified machine operators. The first cohort of students will begin in mid-November.



### **New Faces at Health Occupations Center**

By Carol Otjens



The Health Occupations Center started the 2014-15 school year off with over 500 eager students striving to learn all about the medical field. Some classes started in August when summer was still going for most people. But our Vocational Nursing students, EMT's, Nurse Assistants, Medical Assistants, Phlebotomy Techs, and Pharmacy Techs couldn't wait to get started.



By September all classes were full as we also welcomed students in Veterinary Assisting, Medical Terminology, Medical Receptionist, and Dental Assisting.

Wearing brand new scrubs, carrying their textbooks, and personal supplies, they entered



classrooms and labs throughout the campus. Instructors were excited to meet all the new students and start their healthcare education. We have already had guest speakers on campus, classes making field trips to sites that enhance their understanding of the topic, and many trips to the computer lab to engage in web-based instruction.

Some students are already doing internships at hospitals and clinics throughout San Diego

county. This on-the-job training experience will enhance all the campus technical instruction and give students an understanding of how exciting it is out there in the real world.

On Wednesday, November 5, 2014 HOC will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive. If you are in good health, please consider stopping by to donate. As you know, donations are needed year-round in our community. "Every drop helps."



### **Foothills Update**

By Jeff Meredith

Several of **Holly Segni's** Photography Composition students entered their photos into various contests and were awarded for their efforts. At the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar this last summer thousands of entries were submitted and one of our students, **Bob Burns**, who entered an image of a purple/green succulent, won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Flowers category. **Carole Mall** won Honorable Mention in the B/W Portraiture division and **Sally Long** won Honorable Mention in two categories, People and Floral.

The National Rose Show was held in San Diego this year. Two photo class members entered several photographs one of them **Sally Young** won Best in Show-Rose Art, the traditional winner of this category has had their photo manipulated in Photoshop in some way. Sally's photo was of a dried rose bud frozen in ice, lit only from the back through the ice and had in no way been altered out-of-camera. Take a look at the bulletin boards just past the front office where many of these pictures are displayed. Photo Composition is offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

We have some new teachers this year at Foothills. Please take some time to welcome **Christi Lavigne**, ABE room 6; **Jennifer Balsley**, ESL room 12; and **Coco Marquez**, Zumba in room 53.



**ESL Classes—A Stepping Stone to a Brighter Future**  
By Sheila Davis



**Hiba Al Saegh** was born and attended college in Baghdad, Iraq. She didn't have the freedom to choose her course of study. Based on her grades, she was forced to get her BA in a field she was not interested in. One of the best things about school in the U.S., she said, is a person has freedom to choose their studies based on their own interests.

Hiba attended ESL classes for nine months. She learned vocabulary, how to write a letter, and work with other students in a group.



Attending English class built her confidence. She said, "Before, I thought I could not do anything, just stay in an ESL class. But my English developed and that encouraged me to study more things to develop myself."

Hiba also volunteered for community events, like making Jared Boxes (toys for sick children) and classroom clean-up. Adding these volunteer activities helped build her resume because she had no prior work experience in the U.S.

Hiba is currently an honor roll student in a Medical Assistant program (Advanced Training Associates) in El Cajon and is due to graduate in December. If she maintains over 95% on all tests, she will graduate on the Dean's List. Then, she plans to do six more months to get an AA degree. Her future goals include getting a good job as a Medical Assistant and gaining work experience. Later, she would like to either be an RN or Nurse Practitioner.

Faiz, her husband of 4 years, currently works two jobs to support his family. The couple has a one year old daughter, Grace Mary. Their lives are stressful now, but they are hopeful that once she starts working, life will be better. Hiba says, "We want to build ourselves. We are ambitious and looking toward our future." This refugee family has a very bright future, indeed.



**Accreditation Update**  
By Jennifer Owens



Accreditation. What? You thought we were DONE?? Accreditation is a cyclical process and so we will continue to press forward with the same level of enthusiasm as we had leading up to the visit. As stated at Back to School night and in the Fall Accreditation newsletter, we were awarded a six year accreditation with a one day visit that will take place in three years. This is all good news!! Once again, THANK YOU for your hard work and the positively overwhelming impression you made on the visiting committee. I'm glad they were able to witness what we already know, and that is Grossmont Adult School's staff, teachers, and students are exceptional!! With the help of our Self-Study report we were able to identify areas for growth and we're working on the components of our Action Plan!! Of course, I will update you throughout the year as to our progress, and as always, you are welcome to contact me with any questions or suggestions. I cannot say it enough - THANK YOU!!  
jlowens@guhsd.net



## Steele Canyon Update

By Tim Lindley



Here it is the start of another school year and the fall session at Steele Canyon Adult Center is going strong. Just like in the past our teaching staff is out in the community with their students being active.

Last spring the Steele Canyon Adult Center participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual International Back To Back Wool Challenge under the direction of **Margaret Tyler** (Spinning Teacher). The challenge entails shearing a sheep by hand, spinning the yarn, and knitting a sweater in a timed contest. Our team came in 7<sup>th</sup> place and at the same time raised over \$1,000 for cancer research. Good effort for a good cause!

**Margaret Tyler's** Spinning classes at Steele Canyon Adult Center were a "goldmine" for San Diego County Fair awards this summer. Her students won 44 ribbons and cash awards. In addition, the Spinning students did over 150 demonstrations at the fair providing outreach for the Spinning classes and Grossmont Adult School. What a summer for our spinning students and Margaret – we are proud of you all!

**Carol Lockwood's** (Ceramics class at La Mesa Enrichment Center) students proudly showed off their San Diego County Fair projects in August at the La Mesa Arts Alliance and Grossmont Center Art Show. Another example of a great way to get Grossmont Adult School out in the public's eye.

**Margaret Tyler's** Spinning class students were out there again doing exceptional things. As two of her students were featured on a National Geographic television program "Doomsday Preppers" demonstrating how to use items like dog's hair to make garments.

SCAC students are hitting the big time!



## ABE/ASE Update

By Susie Taylor

The game's afoot! Our academic instructors are in pursuit of best practices for our courses this year, and here are a few leads we are chasing down.

In our ABE files, Principal **Robyn Wiggins, Christy Lavigne, Robin Richter, Laurie Hamilton**, and I began gathering clues from other adult education programs at Sweetwater and at Mira Costa College to detect barriers to a consistent learning experience for our adult students. We are also hot on the trail of accurate reading assessment scores for proper placement of our students.



From another lead, I'd wager it was "**Ms. Owens**, in the computer lab, with an Apple" tackling the high school equivalency exam that now goes by several aliases—GED, TASC, or HiSET. Seriously now, our instructors are working overtime to develop a new preparation path for the computerized test. All three tests qualify a student for California's high school equivalency certificate. Principal **Jeff Meredith** is investigating the possibility of offering the HiSET at Foothills.

Mysterious people were seen this week in **Susie Taylor's** high school diploma class. They turned out to be **Melissa Esten** and **Brian Gustafson**, representatives from Goodwill Industries. They shared the ten most wanted job skills and a list of 50 job openings to 45 curious students. Stay tuned for breaking news on these cases and more!



## CCAIE Update

By Jeff Meredith



CCAIE is off to a fast start. We had 40 people at our "Day at the Races" event on August 30<sup>th</sup> at the Del Mar Racetrack. Rumor has it that our new CCAIE President **Jeff Meredith** was the big winner at the event. The Del Mar Racetrack was kind enough to donate two pair of Clubhouse Passes for the 2015 racing season. These will be raffled off on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Fling. The Winter Social is set for December 5<sup>th</sup>, location Panda Valley restaurant.



Thank you to all of you that have renewed your CCAIE membership for this year. Adult Education is in the midst of a new era working in conjunction with the Community Colleges. It is not too late to renew your membership. Contact **Susie Taylor** at Foothills Adult for more information.

# CCAIE Winter Social

*December 5, 2014*

*6:00 pm*

*Panda Valley Chinese Restaurant*

*Main Street*

*El Cajon*

More info to follow!

