



## Message from the Director

By Robyn Wiggins



Can you believe it's already the end of February? Where has this school year gone?

OASIS (Outstanding Adult Students, Instructors, & Staff) nomination forms are now available. You can get copies of the form from your site Administrator, a link on our webpage, or by clicking [here](#). Please be sure to nominate your outstanding students, other teachers, and/or support staff. It may be uncomfortable to toot your own horn, but please let your students know that in addition to nominating other students this is also an opportunity for them to nominate a teacher or staff member. Nomination forms will be available at each site and on the web page. This year's OASIS celebration will be Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. It's a great celebration to honor and appreciate individuals that regularly go above and beyond and make a difference in the lives of others.

It was difficult to create a calendar this year because our high schools resume classes earlier than they have in the past. AMC has developed and approved the 2016-2017 Grossmont Adult School calendar (click [here](#)) in an effort to align with our feeder schools and our community colleges. Adult School classes will begin August 22<sup>nd</sup> allowing fall and term classes to be over before winter break. Since spring and term classes will begin January 9<sup>th</sup> our classes will end May 26<sup>th</sup>! This will hopefully improve student attendance during those tough vacation periods.

Mark your calendar. **The Back to School meeting will be Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** Attendance is mandatory and pictures

for ID badges will be taken beginning at 5:00 pm.

WASC is right around the corner! We will be having our 3 year visit this time next year, which we all know will be here before we know it. Jennifer is keeping us moving forward and we will begin writing our follow up report. I'm very excited about the progress we've made responding to the Action Steps suggested during our original initial visit. Thank you to everyone involved in an Action Plan Committees. Don't forget to have your students complete the class survey at the end of every class; the information gathered is invaluable data. The survey button is located at the bottom of our webpage.

As Gary will tell you, there is a lot happening in and around Grossmont Adult School. We have hired a few new employees to help implement AEBG (Adult Education Block Grant). To help guide our journey into the future, there are several surveys for your students input and one for you too! I know, another survey, but like the end of class survey, the information gathered is invaluable. (Click [here](#) for a link to the [staff survey](#).) Check with your site principal if you or your students need information on completing the survey. We will be soliciting a marketing firm to help rebrand Grossmont Adult School. Whether it is a new name, a new logo, new social media accounts, etc., I look forward to suggestions on how we can reflect our new vision to the community.

Changes are happening and this is a very exciting time for adult education. I am thrilled to be part of these historical changes and I hope you are as well. Enjoy the rest of the school year. You are making a difference in your students' lives!



**Message from the Consortium  
Executive Director**  
By Gary Schwartzwald



Hello everyone, I hope the first half of the year was wonderful for you, and that the second half of the school year is even better. It's time to provide you with a brief update regarding our Adult Education Block Grant Consortium.

I'm going to begin way back in history, but I'll also move us forward quickly. Although I was not in California at the time, I'm told that California became a state in 1850. Just six years later, in 1856 the first official Adult Education program in the state of California began. Now let's fast forward 90 years. In 1946 Grossmont Adult School was established in El Cajon on Main Street. Until 2007 - 2008 we were under a direct funding model. As you probably know, we then went into flexibility. This year we've been extremely fortunate to go back into a direct funded model and become partners with the Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District. That partnership is running very smoothly and we are lucky to have such supportive partners that have our communities' best interests at heart. This partnership will make us stronger and more effective than ever.

The consortium focuses our efforts around specific program areas: ABE/HSD/HSE; ESL; CTE; Adult Literacy; AWD; Adult Literacy Participation; Apprenticeships. For each program area, we are developing pathways that will enable students to accelerate and transition successfully to the workforce or opportunities of higher education. Our PACs (Program Area Councils) have been instrumental in the consortium planning phase. They will be vital for the implementation phase.

Although there was a great deal of excitement and anticipation in the air, there was little fanfare, no balloons, no confetti, and no Champagne, when a tremendously significant event took place on January 26, 2016. Our initial San Diego East Region Adult Education

Consortium Governing Board meeting was held. We are officially partners!!! Our governing board members are Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District Chancellor **Dr. Cindy Miles**, Grossmont Union High School District Superintendent **Ralf Swenson**, GUHSD Assistant Superintendent **Theresa Kemper** (Board President), GCCCD Vice Chancellor **John Valencia** (Board Vice-President), and East County Chamber of Commerce President **Eric Lund**. Thank you to our new Governing Board members who will lead and support us as we join together to continue as well as expand and enhance education for adults throughout East County.

Our Consortium has also hired some new staff members to help us assist our Grossmont Adult Education students to make the journey through Adult Education, and then onto Community College and/or the workplace. **Ute Maschke** is our new Grant Manager and **Nikki Middleton** is our new Senior Transition Coordinator. They are both working out of our Foothills Adult Center and will be helping us move forward as a joint force. Please welcome them.

Thank you once again for your continued and excellent work educating the adults in our community and preparing them for their next steps.



**Accreditation Update**  
By Jennifer Owens



It's been two years since the WASC Visiting Committee was here. That means, in about one year, we will have our one-day follow up visit. In the Self-Study Report from two years ago, Grossmont Adult School identified a few areas where Schoolwide improvement needed to happen. The five areas of improvement are: Data, PLCs, AB-86 (now AB-104/AEBG), Language, and Student Support Services. Our Action Plan is comprised of these five areas.

One of the biggest items identified in the Self-Study Report was the need to acquire relevant student data **on an ongoing basis**. The data committee has identified the need to gather as much data as possible by surveying our students throughout the school year. To meet that need, the student survey button is permanently located on the lower left corner of our website. Please have your students take the survey upon completing your class. The student survey(s) implemented by the data committee will continue to be updated as a means to find out what our students need and how we can effectively serve them.

One of our Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs) is for students to:

- Utilize technology and social media to communicate effectively

I have observed many Lifelong Education students navigating our website for the first time as they sit down to complete the survey. And while completing the survey online is not social media, it is utilizing technology to communicate effectively. It is exciting to watch them feel a sense of accomplishment by completing this task. It also gives them the opportunity to share the benefits they enjoy by taking classes offered through Grossmont Adult School.

Remember that, as with everything that we do, student surveys are not for the purpose of “WASC”, but for us to better meet the needs of our students and for our self-improvement. WASC isn’t about being perfect for a few days while outsiders visit our campuses. It is about us utilizing the WASC process to better serve our students in all aspects of their experience at Grossmont Adult School.

In alignment with serving our students more effectively, we will be expanding our focus groups. As always, there is an open invitation from me to you to be part of the process. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at [jlowens@guhsd.net](mailto:jlowens@guhsd.net).



## ECCC

By Steve Niemeyer



At the Career Center we are always hosting events that help people find jobs. One new employer to the region is the Hollywood Casino, which will be opening in Jamul. They are currently looking to fill nearly one thousand positions! There are opportunities in: casino operations, accounting and finance, facilities, maintenance, human resources, marketing, security, food services, and more.

The Career Center will be hosting two upcoming hiring events for Hollywood Casino. One will be on February 29th, and the other will be on March 11th. Both events will be from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Additionally, they will be part of our Companies Hiring in San Diego panel on March 24th. Information on available positions can be found on their website as [HollywoodCasinoJamul.com](http://HollywoodCasinoJamul.com).

On another note, we would like to wish **Socorro (Sony) Randazzo** well as she retires at the end of February. Sony has been a Career Technician at the Career Center for the past 6 years, and has been an integral part of our program serving adults in the community. Sony originally came to the Career Center as a client seeking work. Her abilities were quickly recognized, so she was encouraged to go to the District Office to get on the sub list. After spending some time as a sub she was hired at the Career Center. She has always displayed professionalism, and the work that Sony performed rarely needed supervision! We will miss Sony, and will be a little envious as she begins this new chapter in her life



## The Spirit of Giving

By Tawnya Richards



Welcome new United States Citizen **Natheer Salem!** Natheer came to the US from Iraq in 2010 with his two teenaged sons. He had tremendous obstacles to overcome as a refugee with

minimal English skills and as a newly single parent. Natheer started taking English classes at El Cajon Adult School and quickly became an inspiration to teachers, staff, and fellow students.

Natheer is a natural leader. As a member of ECAC student council, he is passionate about students working as a community and giving to charity. He donates his time to deliver contributions to local food banks. He attends every Campus Clean-Up and encourages others to attend. Additionally, he tutors music on Saturdays.

Natheer's energy and passion is contagious. Students and teachers alike see that they can give and do a bit more after a few minutes with him.

I have seen many amazing students pass through my classes, but Natheer is an outstanding example of what it means to be an American. Keep an eye out in future elections; we may have the next civic leader in our midst.



### Steele Canyon Adult Center By Tim Lindley



It is past the halfway point in another school year! The students and staff at Steele Canyon Adult Center stayed very active in their classes and the community this past summer and fall.

**Drew Bandish**, painting teacher at La Mesa Enrichment Center and Foothills Adult Center, continues to do good things in the community. His art was featured at the San Diego Watercolor Society show this February including his painting "Morning



Pages". Art shows are a great way to represent Grossmont Adult School and our programs to the public.



### Health Occupations Center Celebrates Students

By Carol Otjens



Recently, the Health Occupations Center celebrated the graduation of 28 students in the Vocational Nursing program. These hard working students completed 18 months of rigorous classroom instruction, campus lab simulations, and clinical rotations at hospitals and clinics across the county. The event commemorated their hard work and passion for the nursing field.



Many other programs had students finishing their education and training to get entry level jobs as Medical Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians, Phlebotomists, and Dental Assistants among others. Classroom discussions, lab time, and internships helped to make many students successful in their medical career choice.

Congratulations, everyone.

Two students at HOC were recipients of the Carolyn Heintz Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Heintz was a teacher and administrator at HOC for many, many years. Her love of the medical field and education made her a valuable asset to the many students training on campus. Medical Billing & Coding student, **Keisha Gardner**, and Vocational Nursing student, **Quilla Espinoza**, both received \$500 to help



them further their education and training in the healthcare industry. Congratulations to you both!! (Pictured: **Keisha Gardner** and instructor **Eric Mapp**)

HOC welcomed many business partners onto campus to give us their input and advice on all of our medical programs. These busy professionals volunteered their time to review our curriculum, textbooks, equipment, internship sites, and much more in each of the program areas. Their knowledge and expertise in their field helped us ensure that we are teaching to current industry standards. Modifications to the curriculum are currently being discussed based on the Advisory Committee's recommendations. We would like to thank all of our industry partners!! Your professionalism ensures we are meeting our educational goals, engaging students, and enabling them to become part of a healthcare team.

ECVHS Health Pathway students learned hands-on skills from HOC students. Students rotated through classrooms to tour each health-



professions program offered at HOC. The high school students were able to work directly with Medical Assistant

students to practice taking a radial pulse and learned how to take a blood pressure from the Licensed Vocation Nursing class. The students observed how to make medication in the Pharmacy Tech lab, learned how to take X-rays from the Dental Assisting students and witnessed the Phlebotomy students practice capillary sticks on each other. We hope to see these bright young students in an HOC class someday!



## New Faces, New Places at Foothills

By Jeff Meredith



We have a group of new teachers to welcome to the Foothills group. Starting with **Sandee Mapp** our new Bookkeeping and Accounting teacher. Sandee comes to us with years of experience as a Financial Advisor. Her classes run on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Our next new face teaches a couple of computer classes (Intro and Windows 7) she also is our new nighttime high school diploma instructor **Pamela Blyth**. Pamela spent many years as a Qualcomm employee in their training department and is a former elementary school teacher.

Getting inmates to pass the HiSET test and earn their High School Equivalency certificate also falls under the Foothills umbrella and we have four new teachers spread out at different detention facilities throughout the county: **Thomas Clabeaux** at East Mesa, **Jeremiah Stewart** at George Bailey, **Maria Taugher** at Vista and **Linda Landon** also at East Mesa.

We have had some movement in the front office at Foothills. The babysitting room behind Catholic Charities has been transformed into office space for **Patti Ashmun**, **Connie Bobof** and **Denise Shrin**. Teachers are encouraged to go out and visit them. The best way to access their offices is through the gate on the side of the children's play area. Moving into Patti's former office is **Ute Maschke**, the new Grant Manager hired by the Consortium. Another new Consortium employee, **Nicole Middleton**, has moved into Denise's former office. Nikki is the new Senior Transition Coordinator. Welcome to all of our new employees!

The Dr. William C. Herrick Community Health Care Library is now hosting its Winter Art Exhibit featuring watercolor paintings by art instructor **Drew Bandish** and five of his students. The Library is open to the public, so please visit their website for more information ([www.herricklibrary.org](http://www.herricklibrary.org)).



**CCAIE Update**  
By Jeff Meredith



**Gladys Uri** at Foothills has just completed her Valentine’s Day Candy sales, Gladys and her candy crew have generated close to \$1,500 for student scholarships and other CCAIE activities. If you were not able to buy candy for Valentine’s Day, do not worry! Easter candy has been ordered and Gladys will be out with the candy cart selling soon.

**Ramona Brown**, Administrative Clerk at El Cajon Adult Center, will be honored at the State CCAIE Conference with the Excellence in Support Service Award. One of our former employees **Charlene Bader**, a 30+ year employee at Helix Adult, Steele Canyon Adult, will be honored with the Life Membership Award. Congratulations to both of our winners and enjoy your time at the State Conference in San Francisco.

Our Friday Fling is coming soon! We will be nailing down a location and a date in March for this event. Do not forget the annual bowling tournament coming in May. The defending champions, Foothills Adult Center, will be there to defend.

Grossmont Adult School Important Dates	
Date	Event
March 5	Super Saturday
March 11	Term 3 classes end
March 18	Winter classes end
Mar 21-Apr 1	Spring break
April 4	Spring and Term 4 classes begin
April 26	SDERAEC Board meeting
May 6	OASIS Awards ceremony
May 30	Labor Day
June 3	Term 4 classes end
June 10	Spring classes end
June 14	Graduation
June 22	Summer registration begins
July 5	Summer classes begin
July 16	Super Saturday
August 5	Summer classes end
August 17	Back to School meeting
August 22	Fall and Term 1 classes begin