



Message from the Director

By Robyn Wiggins



I can't believe it's already October, the school year is already flying by.

I hope that you took advantage of summer and spent quality time with family and friends, and did a little something for yourself too. I'm getting settled into my new position and am enjoying meeting so many of you and learning about your fantastic programs. Drew Bandish has been kind enough to hang paintings in my office from his own collection, what a treat! If I haven't met you yet, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to me.

With our Adult Ed Block Grant, there is still a lot of work to be done. To help with this work, Susie Taylor will be taking on some additional duties. In addition to her classroom teaching assignment, she is currently a Teacher on Special Assignment as an Academic Program Specialist and is working very hard with our ASE/ABE teachers. Susie will also be participating in the AEBG Steering Committee. Thank you in advance for your support of Susie in these roles, and our efforts to implement the new Adult Education Block Grant.

You will be receiving a letter offering you the opportunity to contribute to our Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank. As Matt Russo shared at our Back to School meeting, it was a life saver for him when he had to have both knees replaced. Donating to the sick leave bank is optional, but you are required to donate before you can utilize its benefits in a time of need. Obviously, I would hope that no one ever needs to draw from the bank, but it is a benefit and a life saver should the need arise.

Here's to another fantastic school year, keep up all the great things you are doing for our students and our community.



Adult Ed Consortium Update

By Gary Schwartzwald



On Thursday September 17th over 130 staff members attended the three informational forums we held, regarding our Adult Education Consortium. Thank you for taking and making the time to attend. I hope the conversations helped clarify where we are in the Consortium process, and where, in general terms we are headed. Many of you asked insightful clarifying questions, and I appreciate your positive participation.

We expect to receive our Consortium funding by the end of this month, and also expect to submit a Governance Plan to the CDE by the end of the month. Our Steering Committee has drafted job descriptions for a Project Manager and also for a Senior Transition Specialist. The Senior Transition Specialist will help develop and guide the work of future Transition Specialists. The work of these Transition Specialists will be to inform our Grossmont Adult School students of the various opportunities that are available for them within our Adult School, at the local Community Colleges, and in the world of work. Their guidance will greatly enhance the potential for our students.

We continue to make progress step by step, little by little. Thank you once again for all your excellent work with and for our students. I look forward to working together as we move into the next phase for Grossmont Adult School.



ECCC

By Steve Niemeyer



The San Diego Workforce Partnership recently released the most current data on the career center network and their performance. As is the norm, the East County Career Center is on the top of the list. Our dedicated staff continually strive to provide excellent customer service as well as work tirelessly to ensure that we hit all performance measures.

One of our outstanding employees, **Cathy Gates** was selected as our Employee of the Quarter for Q1 of 2015-16. Cathy regularly steps up to fill in wherever needed. During this first quarter, we had several of our staff out on vacation and extended leave. We were very grateful to have Cathy on board as she looked for opportunities to pick up the slack to ensure that the career center functioned normally.

Thank you Cathy!



Pharmacy Tech Class at Health Occupations Center

By Carol Otjens



The Health Occupations Center has a large variety of health and medical training programs, including Pharmacy Technician. This very successful program allows students to become certified by the State of California to work directly under a pharmacist to dispense medications as prescribed. We recently were able to use funds from our Carl Perkins Grant to modernize the Pharmacy Lab for our students. We now have a replica of a pharmacy with industry standard shelving to display all the medication bottles just as students would use in a real pharmacy. (Although the medication bottles are “real”, there are no actual medications used; all pills have been replaced with beans.) Our new lab also boasts a “Clean Room” where students learn to mix IVs for hospital use, a bank of computers to enter information and create prescription labels, and all the other equipment needed to excel in this

career. Along with an internship at a local pharmacy, this new state-of-the-art lab gives students the education and training needed to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician as well as a successful member of the healthcare team.



Foothills Update

By Jeff Meredith



Susan Bruce has been employed by the Grossmont Union High School District for 42 years. Susan has been a health and fitness instructor for 30 of those 42 years. She is a personal trainer, a certified Group Fitness Instructor, and a certified Zumba (Level 2) teacher. Susan teaches two of the most popular fitness classes at Foothills, stability ball training and Zumba. This last summer Susan was able to attend the IDEA (International Dance Exercise Association) annual convention at the Los Angeles Convention Center from July 15th-19th. There were over 12,000 fitness professionals from over 80 countries present. This event is referred to as the “super bowl” of fitness, with what is new and innovative in the field of fitness education. The high point came when Susan was chosen to be an IDEA Inspiration Medal Winner and participated in a ceremony on the Main Stage in the Expo Hall. With this award Susan will be featured in an upcoming issue of IDEA Fitness Journal coming out later this year.

We are proud to have Susan as a part of our Foothills staff and thank her for years of dedication to our students and their health.



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 21st 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 recorded the top America team time and at the same time raised over \$1,500 for cancer research. Our group of students beat the old record by 24 minutes and 26 seconds set by a group from Michigan in 1996. Great effort for a good cause!



Drew Bandish's Painting Teacher at La Mesa Enrichment Center is doing good things in the community again. His art was featured at the Foothills Art Association and the La Mesa Flag Day Parade this past May including his painting "Reaching Across Diamonds" shown below. It's just another great way to represent Grossmont Adult School and our programs in public.



Margaret Tyler's Spinning classes at Steele Canyon Adult Center were an "award winning

machine" for San Diego County Fair awards this summer. Her students won 53 ribbons and cash awards. In addition, the Spinning students did 62 hours of 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!

Drew Bandish and his students were at it again this fall. Drew himself had several paintings win awards in local shows. Two of his students (**Carolyn Teincuff** and **Sandie Seckington**) were featured at Foothills Fine Art Gallery in La Mesa in the months of August and September. In October, Drew's watercolor "Beach Access at Torrey Pines" was scheduled to be featured in the San Diego Watercolor Society International Show.



Last May one of **Kathy Fleming's** (Tai Chi instructor at La Mesa Enrichment Center) students (**Elizabeth Vito**) had a nice feature article on her in the San Diego Union Tribune. The article chronicled how this 91 year old student graduated from San Diego State University after starting her degree program at 81 years young. It must have been those Tai Chi classes that gave her that extra energy and initiative!!!

"La Mesa Enrichment Center Ceramic Class Takes The Cake". The 2015 San Diego County Fair theme, A Fair to Remember, honored the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal and 1915 Exposition in Balboa Park. Students of Carol Lockwood's Grossmont Adult

School Ceramic Class created a full-sized wedding style “cake”, all made of clay, designed by **Janine Hurd-Glenn** and created by seven class members — **Bonnie Andrews, Peggy Carter, Vivien Isom, Michele Jachimiak, Nia Olinger, and Chris Zarp**. The cake was displayed at the Home and Hobby Exhibit for all 25 days of the Fair. It features rose covered arches, an animal carousel and Doric columns crowned by a replica of the dome over the Museum of Man. Following the Fair, the award winning “cake” is now on display on the Prado at the Visitor’s Center in Balboa Park until the end of the year.

Sandy Thompson (Quilting teacher at Steele Canyon Adult Center) had 14 student projects entered in the San Diego Quilt Show held in September. Her group of students received five awards including two first place prizes and three second place awards. Great job by the Wednesday Steele Canyon Adult Center Quilting class teacher and students!



Student Council Events at El Cajon Adult Center
By Sheila Davis



Our first Student Council meetings of this school year were well-attended. Morning, afternoon, and evening students from the main campus and surrounding off-site classes gathered together to discuss student concerns, community projects, and other topics. The coordinator was our own charismatic **“Teacher Toni” Gagliardi** with support from Teacher **Sheila Davis** and new El Cajon Adult Principal, **Sam Lund**.

Students were excited to learn about community outreach projects available through their school. “The Jared Box Project” is named for a young boy, Jared, who died of cancer. In remembrance of Jared, shoe-sized plastic boxes are filled with toys and children’s items; then distributed to sick children. Patients at Rady’s Children’s Hospital will be the recipients. Collecting donations and creating these boxes are one way that our students give back.

Another popular service project is our annual Food Drive for those in need. In October and November, non-perishables are collected in classrooms; then brought to our main office. These items are sorted and delivered to various locations throughout El Cajon - the Salvation Army and churches. While students give generously, they also learn food vocabulary.

Finally, our students want to show their appreciation to their own school. Next Saturday, October 10 from 9 - 11 am, we have our quarterly Campus Clean Up at El Cajon Adult. Staff, students, family members, and other volunteers clean the office, classrooms, the Quad, and the parking lots. It’s a great cleaning day; but we also have fun, get some exercise, and enjoy a free breakfast.

Thanks to Toni Gagliardi’s hard work and dedication, Student Council has changed the culture of El Cajon Adult School. Students have learned through volunteerism and that they are a part of the fabric of the El Cajon community and they have the power to make a positive impact. If you’d like to contribute to the above community service projects or want to learn more about future projects, please email Toni at marieagagliardi@gmail.com.





Accreditation Update

By Jennifer Owens



It's been a year and a half since our WASC accreditation visit. Time flies when you're having fun! As I shared with you at Back to School Night, things are progressing in preparation for our mid-visit and upcoming report. The report will be submitted to WASC in December 2016. The one day visit will be in the spring of 2017. It sounds far away, but it'll be here before we know it!

Here's a brief update on each of the committees:

The Data Committee met last week. There will be multiple student surveys given throughout this school year. This will ensure that we are meeting the needs of our students. You will hear from your site administrators about the upcoming surveys.

PLCs throughout various programs are continuing. Currently there are PLCs in academics, ESL, and CTE.

The AB86 Committee has done a great job of keeping our action plan current and up to date with the changes we're making to align with the legislation.

The Language Committee excitedly completed the suggestion given by the previous visiting committee and had the General Information page of the schedule translated into Spanish and Arabic. As a committee, they are continuing the translation of materials on a site-by-site basis. If you have any forms that need to be translated, please submit them to your site administrator.

The Student Support Services Committee has brought back the "Information Bookmarks" (that were on display at Back to School Night). This will help us better serve our students by providing them with information about the community services that are available to them.

Accreditation is a group effort. I personally want to thank each and every one of you for your continued enthusiastic support regarding

accreditation. The WASC Accreditation process keeps us on task. It keeps us moving forward. It keeps us in touch with assessing the needs of our students. It keeps us implementing changes that will better serve our students. It's a pleasure to work with each of you by providing quality instruction to help our students meet their personal, academic, and workplace goals.



CCAE Update

By Vicki Gagliardi



Welcome back! As I looked around the room at the Back to School meeting I realized how lucky we all are to return to a job we love. I get phone calls nearly every day from teachers looking for work because their school district made cuts. CCAE has fought hard the last few years to keep Adult Education funded by the state. Because of CCAE's efforts and our administrators working closely with the District, Grossmont Adult School was able to continue offering classes to the community. Sure, there are some differences in how the classes are offered but without change, we sometimes lose our initiative to refresh our instruction for our students. CCAE is continuing to fight the battle for us in Sacramento. There are still sticky points that need clarification such as credentialing, fees, etc. Your membership in CCAE is important to continue lobbying on behalf of Adult Education. If you aren't a member yet, please join CCAE. Contact me at vgagliar@guhdsd.net if you would like an application. The membership fee can be broken down into small increments and taken directly out of your paycheck.

Additional benefits of CCAE are professional development, recognition awards, and social events. The fall South Coast/Southern Section CCAE Conference will be held in Palm Springs on November 13th and 14th. The theme is Taking Students to the Top. There will be approximately 25 workshops and numerous educational vendors to visit. Contact Jeff Meredith or me if you are interested in attending.



Ramona Brown will receive the Excellence in Support Services award at the awards luncheon on Saturday afternoon.

Mark your calendar! Save the date! Our winter social has been scheduled for December 4th at Marechiaro's Italian Restaurant in El Cajon. Flyers and invitations will be distributed closer to the event. If you haven't attended our winter social in the past, you've missed a great time. Even Santa and his better half have attended the winter social! Sign up early because attendance may be limited this year. I hope to see you there.

Pam Howard will also be honored at the awards luncheon on Saturday. She has been selected to receive the Excellence in Teaching award.

