This has been an eventful year in Cerro Coso Community College's history as we celebrated 45 years of service as an independent college, and opened the doors to our newly renovated and modernized original 47,000 sq. ft. building, constructed in 1973, that serves as the hub of the East side of the Ridgecrest campus.

The Main Building Modernization project marks a milestone for Cerro Coso as it symbolizes the tremendous efforts made by so many people with the passage of Measures G and J. The transformation of the aged facility was streamlined to digitize the student experience, while improving efficiency and service. The one-stop, student-centered focus offers the most common student services at one convenient location, making their experience with enrollment, academic records, counseling, financial aid, and making payments as smooth, efficient, and friendly as possible.

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators enjoyed extraordinary accomplishments this year. As you turn the pages you’ll see the many exciting programs, initiatives, and achievements that make Cerro Coso Community College a college of first choice.

In 1977, early leaders in our community had the foresight to establish the Cerro Coso Community College Foundation as the direct support organization for Cerro Coso Community College. For the past 41 years, the Foundation has worked tirelessly to uphold our promise to help the College obtain a margin of excellence that would otherwise be left unfulfilled.

This year, the CCCC Foundation launched the Cerro Coso Promise to ensure that students can reduce the time and cost it requires to complete a degree while guaranteeing they will be fully prepared for their next step upon graduation. The Cerro Coso Promise represents the heart of what Cerro Coso Community College is all about and creates a stronger organization, more educated community, and better-prepared workforce.

We have a bright future and remain committed to offering our students a quality education that is affordable and convenient. Our employees are genuinely dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our students. We continue to look forward to collaborating with area community organizations and businesses to provide new and relevant opportunities to help ensure our students succeed and our communities remain vibrant places to work and live.

In support of their philanthropic efforts, the CCCC Foundation also introduced the new President’s Circle—a group of movers and shakers dedicated to Cerro Coso’s mission, and a financial investment in the college’s future. As you review our 2018 Report to the Community, please consider a charitable contribution to help our students, the college, and ultimately our communities, excel.

Jill Board
Cerro Coso Providing Second Chance to Prisoners

Twenty-five inmates from the California City Correctional Facility have become the first graduates of a prison based education program that awarded them associate degrees from Cerro Coso Community College in 2018. Students enrolled in the program are taught the same courses their Cerro Coso professors teach in the classrooms on campus and online. In addition to the 25 graduates, 63 qualified for the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society. To be invited to join PTK a student must have completed a minimum of 12 units and hold a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Offering hope for a better future, the Prison Education Program is designed to help students transition back into society upon release, effectively reducing recidivism.

Cerro Coso is now offering college classes in two California prisons, in California City and in Tehachapi.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of formerly incarcerated individuals are released back into society. Along with a high rate of incarceration, the U.S. also has a high rate of recidivism, meaning those who have been incarcerated are likely to return to prison after their release.

“In higher education we see the potential in everyone,” said KCCD Chancellor to the graduates. “Our challenge is getting those individuals to see the potential within themselves.”

Cerro Coso’s Prison Education program provides an opportunity for success after incarceration, and improves the safety of prisons and communities.

A proven leader in how to integrate programs and services like EOPS and PTK, the success of Cerro Coso’s Prison Education Program has been presented at a number of state and national conferences including the California Institutional Research Conference, The National Conference for Higher Education in Prison (NCHEP), and the California Prison Education Summit.

Prison Recidivism Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For those with no education</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For those who participate in college programs</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For those with an Associate's Degree</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For those with a Bachelor's Degree</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For those with a Master's Degree</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—2013 Rand Corporation Study

In April of 2018, Cerro Coso was the Co-Recipient of the California Community College Chancellor's Office Innovation Award for their Innovative Programming of Guided Pathways, Data Collection, and Student Center Approach in the Prisons.

GOAL ONE MAXIMIZING STUDENT SUCCESS

In May 2018 Ceremony (l to r) Cerro Coso President Jill Board (left) and Dr. Lincoln Johnson (right) congratulate Andrew Ariaga, John Classick, Van Do, Adam Gordon, Lorenzo Gunn IV, Cristin Jimenez, Johnny Lavender, Frank Rivera, and Adam Ullah, the first graduating class of students from the College’s Prison Education Program in California City.

December 2018 Graduation: California City prison graduates pose for a picture with distinguished guests included: KCCD Chancellor Thomas Burke (standing far right). Seated l to r: Warden George Jaime, Cerro Coso President Jill Board, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Superintendent Shannon Swain, CDCR Director of Rehabilitation Brant Choate, and CDCR Principal Dr. Lincoln Johnson.
Class of 2018

Each student who walks across the stage to get a diploma or certificate of achievement has a unique story about the journey to graduation day. Commencement isn’t just a ceremony, it’s a season of celebration.

**Eastern Sierra College Center Commencement Ceremony**
Bishop Campus
May 4, 2018

**Prison Education First Commencement Ceremony**
California City Correctional Facility
May 9, 2018

**45th Anniversary Commencement Ceremony**
Ridgecrest Campus
May 11, 2018

**Prison Education Commencement Ceremony**
California City Correctional Facility
December 4, 2018

2018 Nursing Graduates

Twenty-seven students completed the Vocational Nursing Program at the Ridgecrest and Bishop campuses in 2018, putting them one step closer to their goal of being licensed vocational nurses.

All Cerro Coso graduates were guided by the College’s Mission to improve the life of every student it serves, and are well prepared to thrive, contribute to, and lead in a global society.

May your graduation be the beginning of a future filled with success and happiness. Graduate Rachel Lebsock at the Ridgecrest Campus Ceremony and the four Commencement Speakers for the ESCC Ceremony in Bishop l to r: Calvin Forsythe, Nayeli Villalobos Rodriguez, Tanner Bissonette, and Hayley Moss.
Cerro Coso inducted 126 students into the Beta Kappa Chi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for the 2017/2018 academic year. Phi Theta Kappa is currently represented at more than 600 colleges around the world. Its mission is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students and to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service, and fellowship programs.

The 126 new Phi Theta Kappa members include:

Laurie Alderman  Tom Dodson  Andrew Kline  Sergio Munoz  Blake Smith
Mario Anzaldo  Adrian Douglass  Stephanie Kriedel  Kayla Nauman  Courtney Somerville
Macklin Arbiola  Jonathan Durham  Davis Kunz  Sharon Nelson  Pam Sorenson
Andrew Ariaga  Alvaro Enriquez  Kimberly Landolt  Colette Nicod  Alessandra Stano
Nohah Bailey  Alexandria Farr  Johnny Lavender  Kyla Owens  Kimberly Stewart
Raymond Banda  Heather Fehring  Rachel Lebock  Carlin Pace  Nathan Stuart
William Banks  Taylor Frye  Elinelle Lee  Victoria Patrie  Nocia Thurm
Joshua Barkey  Torin Fuller  Earl Lent  Erica Perez  Mychal Tillman
Sarah Batterbush  Johannah Mae Go  Huan Liang  Daniel Perkins  Rita Trumbull
Theresa Bell  Ryan Guenthard  Grace Lloyd  Kourtney Pott  Colton Van Hook
Betty Bivors  Lorenzo Guen  Jaycne Lucero-Arts  Angelina Pues  Rebecca Vance
Marcus Bovarie  Nicholas Harper  Rosemary Lynn  Eric Quintana  Tom Dodson
Tylar Bradly  Lauren Harris  Donnell Marin  Victoria Rash  Adrian Douglass
Christopher Bridgeman  Ryan Harris  Chystal Matthews  Tiffany Bea  Tim Lopez
Felicity Browne  Jessica Hassan  Elisabeth Mccleron  Yvonne Reyes  Andrin IMAGES
Armando Campos  Anthony Hetts  Mack McCord  Erin Richard  Jocelyn Vincent
Mariah Castleberry  Jennifer Hombree  Montana McInty  Jaison Vincent Rodriguez  Kaitlin Kline
Chelsi Cheadle  Amanda Hill  Elijah Mccowan  Savannah Scarpa  Sergio Munoz
Brian Christensen  Holly Hill  Emily Meadows  Edward Schlesinger  Kayla Nauman
Andy Chung  Angie Irahet  Jacob Miller  Emily Seals  Sharon Nelson
Michael Chung  Carroll Jackson  Laeticia Miramontes  Cynthia Shaw  Tim Lopez
Crystal Coleman  Ruth Jones  Caitlin Mitchel  Raymond Sherman  Andrin Images
Mark Cook  Aleksandri Kenney  Laura Monterey  Savannah Simmons  Nocia Thurm
Nancy Cox  Kaitlyn Kelley  Kaitlyn Morgan  Ken__*/

The Cerro Coso Community College Foundation, recognizing the value in membership and the endless opportunities PTK provides students and generously paid for 120 scholarships for membership into the organization.

Brown and Peterson Recipients of HTCC Exemplary Achievement Awards

Two Cerro Coso honor students received prestigious scholarships by the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC). Britney Brown (left) and Caitlin Peterson (right) each received the HTCC Exemplary Achievement Award. Nominated by Honors Program Coordinator Dr. Christine Swiridoff, Brown and Peterson were recognized for their extraordinary academic performance, especially as it relates to their work in the Honors Program. Both students received $250 scholarships for their work and graduated from Cerro Coso in May.

The Kern River Valley (KRV) Annual Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, April 27, 2018, at the Lake Isabella Campus. Hosted by Student Leader Brandon Smith, the event is held each year to honor the remarkable accomplishments of students from the KRV campus and their commitment to the mission that unites all students: to improve the lives of people around them. Among those recognized were:

Fulltime Faculty of the Year Award
Professor Debra Rundell

Adjunct Faculty of the Year
Jeff Welsh  Jennifer Flenner

Outstanding Leadership Award
Director Lisa Stephens

Outstanding Classified Staff of the Year
Inge Olson

“I admire the dedication and hard work of these students to achieve their goals of a college education. I extend my most sincere congratulations and good wishes to our outstanding student award recipients, and thank the faculty and staff for their continued commitment to our students,” Cerro Coso President Jill Board said.
Five Cerro Coso students presented their research at the 2018 HTCC Annual Student Research Conference held at the University of California, Irvine:

Britney Brown
“The Impacts of Invalid Assumptions on Life Data Analysis,” concluded invalid assumptions have dire consequences on companies providing product warranties. Her research looked at the impact of invalid degradation and distribution assumptions on life expectancy.

Jenna Daugherty
“The Angels Who Lack the Conjugal Love of God”, in Milton’s Paradise Lost, the angels are juxtaposed with Satan and his legion of fallen angels to emphasize the degradation and loss of fallen angels.

Carol Blair
“Autonomy and the Problem of Interpreting Self in Jane Eyre and Villette” provided a platform through which one can explore competing notions of personhood, illustrating self’s autonomy and the limitations of interpretation.

Caitlin Peterson, Carol Blair, Chris Glenn, and Jenna Daugherty
The group reported on their research “Contested Histories: The Making and Unmaking of Confederate Monuments” finding Confederate Monuments can be viewed as both a symbol of the past and a symbol of oppression, leading to modern tensions.

Presenting their work at the HTCC Student Research Conference makes these students eligible not only for monetary awards but also to submit their work for publication in the HTCC anthology Building Bridges, published through the University of California, Irvine.

Durham – Challenges Build Strength And Character
Devyn Durham, class of 2018, has pursued a career of academic excellence achieving the Dean’s list each of his semesters while attending Cerro Coso Community College. Devyn was the outstanding student of the year at ESCC in 2017. He will be transferring to a UC Campus to complete his studies in microbiology. To gear himself up for the extreme stress and hard work of academics, Devyn enjoys the rigors of rock climbing on his own or with a friend. Devyn takes his pursuit of academic excellence seriously every day of his life.
Honors Program Celebrates Student Success

Cerro Coso’s Honors Program celebrated its 2018 graduates at a luncheon in May: Ethan Borden, Janice Baldorado, Sydney Barney, Jonathan Blair, Taylor Frye, Jessica Hiatt, Shantaal Hernandez, Caitlin Peterson, and Britney Brown. Two $500 Faculty Honors Scholarships were awarded to Britney Brown and Caitlin Peterson, and a $1,000 President’s Honors Scholarship went to graduating high school student Emma Gilmartin (Burroughs High School) for her exceptional academic performance.

Student Awards Ceremony Recognizes Achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President’s Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards</th>
<th>Tutor of the Year</th>
<th>KRV Adjunct Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macklin Arbiola</td>
<td>Ryan Richard</td>
<td>Jeff Welsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Baker</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Flemmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Blair</td>
<td></td>
<td>East Kern Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Blair</td>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa Bowen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britney Brown</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanya Brown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen Delacruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitalii Dubytskyi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devyn Durham</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Chance English</td>
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<td>Gladys Reynoso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Hensel</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Holly Hill</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anita Keller</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg Kutzbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Lloyd</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa McAllister</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke McGowan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Menzel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Miller</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caitlin Peterson</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvonne Reyes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Richard</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Searle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryce Simonsen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Solorio</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nayeli Villalobos Rodriguez</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Awards for Outstanding Achievement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Information Technology</td>
<td>Greg Kutzbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English &amp; Foreign Languages</td>
<td>Jenna Daugherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Arts</td>
<td>Ryan Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Shantaal Hernandez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Britney Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Vitalii Dubytskyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Holly Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</td>
<td>Britney Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralegal</td>
<td>Laurie Alderman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allied Health</td>
<td>Samuel Kelley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honors Transfer Council of California Exemplary Achievement Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Student of the Year</th>
<th>Honors Transfer Council of California Exemplary Achievement Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Sierra College Center</td>
<td>Britney Brown, Caitlin Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nayeli Villalobos Rodriguez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Kern-Tehachapi Campus</td>
<td>Lisa Burt, Kimberly Dochterman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kern River Valley Campus</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCC Campus</th>
<th>CCCC Excellence in Education Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES Campus</td>
<td>Nikki Gardepe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS Campus</td>
<td>Julianne Maikai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE Campus</td>
<td>Ashlin Mattos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS Campus</td>
<td>Paul Kuttig</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>Student Awards for Teaching Excellence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SGCC</td>
<td>IWV Full-Time Faculty Matthew Crow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Online Faculty Nakysha Cummings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IWV Adjunct Faculty Karen Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ESCC Faculty Carlos Wright-Tkacz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KRV Full-Time Faculty Debra Rundell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>Staff Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Senate Staff of the Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashley Nichols-Lampkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classified Senate Staff of the Year</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathryn Bachman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KRV Staff of the Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inge Olsen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students Form New Computer Technology Club

Students have formed a new Computer Technology Exploration Club (CTEC), a highly interactive group dedicated to education and exploration of computers. The mission of the club is to explore technology by discussing and reviewing new products and videogames and learning about new technology as it is being introduced into the market. Students benefit from the structure of the club, the social interaction, and the emphasis on teamwork.

10,475 Certificates and Degrees conferred since 1973

Honors Program students’ front l to r: Janice Baldorado, Taylor Frye, Emma Gilmartin (BHS), and Shantaal Hernandez. Back l to r: Britney Brown, Ethan Borden, Caitlin Peterson, Jessica Hiatt, Sydney Barney, and Jonathan Blair.

Students Form New Computer Technology Club

Students have formed a new Computer Technology Exploration Club (CTEC), a highly interactive group dedicated to education and exploration of computers. The mission of the club is to explore technology by discussing and reviewing new products and videogames and learning about new technology as it is being introduced into the market. Students benefit from the structure of the club, the social interaction, and the emphasis on teamwork.
Spring 2018

Katie McGinn
Kathryn Martin
Katherine Mathews
Katie Mathews
Kathy McMichael
Katie McQueen
Kathleen McQueen
Kathleen McQueen
Katie McQueen
Kathleen McQueen

Fall 2018

Katie McQueen
Kathleen McQueen
Katie McQueen
Kathleen McQueen
Katie McQueen
Kathleen McQueen
Katie McQueen
Kathleen McQueen
Katie McQueen
Kathleen McQueen

2018 President’s List

The President’s list is comprised of students who achieved a grade point average of at least 3.75 while earning a minimum of 40 grade points within the semester.

2018 Student Government Workshop

KCCD Chancellor Tom Burke and Chief Financial Officer Deborah Martin (center) pose for a picture with Student Government leaders at all three campuses in the district and their advisors during the 2018 Student Government Workshop held in Porterville.
Kelsey Hire Returns from White House Internship

Many people dream of working in the White House someday, while others must be content with merely visiting. The center of executive power in the United States, the White House has a rich and interesting history. For Cerro Coso Community College alumna Kelsey Hire, the dream became reality this summer as she spent 10 weeks interning for Second Lady Karen Pence. This was Hire's second internship in Washington DC, having served as an intern for Congressman Kevin McCarthy last summer. “It’s a surreal blessing, and only a few get to serve in something of this magnitude and be a part of something so great,” Hire said of her work with Mrs. Pence and her cause to bring attention to art therapy and to the sacrifices made by military service members and their families. “Every day was an incredible learning experience and I walked away from each day amazed and humbled at the opportunities I had been given.”

Public service has always had a special place in Hire’s heart, but the White House Internship Program took her passion to a new level. Serving the needs of our military veterans is a subject near and dear to Hire’s heart. Her grandfather was a Navy veteran and anything she can do to support veterans organizations makes her feel closer to him.

While at Cerro Coso she played an important role in starting the Veterans Club on campus, and while attending UCLA she has already signed up to volunteer at the Veteran’s Home of California in Los Angeles.

A political science major at Cerro Coso, Hire reflected on her success, noting her studies and activities at the college provided her many invaluable educational experiences to serve in leadership roles and enhance the college experiences of her fellow classmates.

While at Cerro Coso, Hire served as the Vice President of Student Government (SGCC) and was an active member of the SGCC for 2 years. Hire credits these experiences as having helped her develop useful professional skills and broadened her knowledge and understanding of the nation’s government and political science useful to her in both internships.

PTK CEO Visits

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, the CEO of the national Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honors Society, visited the Ridgecrest campus on November 13th and 14th to connect with faculty and PTK students, promote the program, and answer questions regarding the value of the PTK organization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 STUDENT AWARDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA/AS Degrees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>406</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificates - Achievement</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOP THREE AWARDS, 2017-2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>(In order by number of awards)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA/AS/AA-T/AS-T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts/Science, General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities &amp; Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Commerce, General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Develop/Early Care &amp; Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding &amp; Cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary/Administrative Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>STUDENT TRANSFERS, 2017-2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-State Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State</td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Advancing Equity Measures

Over the last four years, the college has embarked on a number of important initiatives to narrow equity gaps. These include the important work by faculty with open educational resources to remove barriers for students of low socioeconomic status, the redevelopment of the peer mentor program in ACCESS, the efforts of some CTE programs to attract more male students, and the offering of the Umoja program to support African-American students.

Here are a variety of equity-related outcomes generated for recent projects:

- **Access:** Males comprised 41.2% of all students in 2016-2017 (n=3,080), compared to 37.5% in 2013-2014 (n=2,600)
- **Course Completion:** Students of low socioeconomic status (receiving financial aid) succeeded at a 69% rate in 2016-17 (n=2,859), compared to a 66% rate in 2015-16 (n=2,842)
- **Course Completion:** African American students succeeded at a 59% rate in 2016-17 (n=478), compared to 44% in 2015-16 (425)
- **Course Completion:** Students over 40 years of age in the inmate education program succeeded at a 83.4% rate in fall 2017 (n=440 enrollments), compared to 70.1% in the general population take the same courses in the same semester (n=430 enrollments)
- **Persistence:** 90% of Umoja students who started in fall 2017 (n=20) persisted to enroll in the spring semester, compared to 47.8% of African Americans in the general population who started fall 2015 and persisted to spring 2016 (n=45), the most recent year we have data for.

Native American Education Summit at Bishop Campus

Cerro Coso’s Eastern Sierra College Center hosted the 3rd Annual Native American Education Summit at the Bishop campus. The event was co-sponsored by Cerro Coso Community College, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, and the Owens Valley Career Development Center. The purpose of the annual Education Summit is to encourage collaboration between tribal and non-tribal organizations, educational institutions, and parents and students, and to increase awareness of new educational strategies while continuing to honor traditional, cultural education. Keynote speaker, Dr. William Madrigal, Jr., holds a PhD in Native American Studies, California Indian Regional History and Cultural Reclamation, and recently released a DVD titled *Keeping the Songs Alive: California Indian Historical Perspectives.*

Veterans Appreciation

In recognition of Veterans Day, the Veterans Club, with support from Military and Veteran Services, invited staff and students to participate in the Wall of Courage 2018, a display of photos and a short bio of Cerro Coso Community College’s veteran students, faculty, and staff. The wall served as a place to honor the brave men and women who have and are currently serving in our military. A special luncheon was held on Tuesday, November 13th, in the Student Center for Veterans along with an unveiling of the 2018 Wall of Courage.

A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.
**Student Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETHNICITY</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
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<td>40 &amp; Over</td>
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**UMOJA Students Host Kwanzaa Festival**

Mostly celebrated in the United States, Kwanzaa is a seven day festival that celebrates African and African American culture and history and takes place from December 26th to January 1. Umoja students at Cerro Coso held a festival in the entry of the Learning Resource Center on Tuesday, November 27 at the Ridgecrest campus to share the customs and meanings of Kwanza. There was face decorating, food, and information on the Kwanzaa festival created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. The seven days and candles in Kwanzaa represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Umoja: Unity, Kujichagulia: Self Determination, Ujima: Collective work and responsibility, Ujamaa: Cooperative economics, Nia: Purpose, Kuumba: Creativity, and Imani: Faith.

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**Movie Showing Celebrates Black History Month**

The Cerro Coso Umoja Program hosted the movie “Loving” to celebrate Black History Month in February at the Ridgecrest/IWV campus.

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**Student Activities in Review**

- Umoja Community Orientation
- Umoja Club Meetings
- Latinos Unidos Club Meetings
- Rainbow Club Meetings
- International Club Meetings
- Greg Edwards
- Black History Month Movie Showcase – “Loving”
- Tres Vidas (Three Lives)
- Coco Moving Screening
- Native American Heritage Special Film Screening
- Veterans Day Luncheon
- Kwanzaa Celebration
- HACU Conference

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**Recruit Diversity Training**

Professor Jarrod Bowen, as part of the POST Learning Domain 42 Racial Profiling and Multiculturalism training, took recruits in the CCCC Modular Academy to the Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp. This powerful experience for the recruits resulted in some excellent discussion and self-reflection and was followed by an assignment to be completed after the visit. A first for the Modular Academy, diversity training remains an important priority in all POST basic academies.

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(L to r) Students Teshaun Claiborne and Letia Bogan celebrate the Kwanza festival.

Latrice Donerson (left) gets her face painted by Jannah Bismillah (right).
The college has established a Hunger FREE Campus program at all CCCC locations. The program seeks to address nutritional deficiencies and food insecurities among college students. During an Ohio State University 2017 study on Collegiate Financial Wellness, it was discovered that 58.7% of Cerro Coso students worry about not having enough money for food to get them through the month. That is 9.7% higher than the sampled average of other community colleges. Non-perishable food donations are collected and distributed monthly at the Ridgecrest campus and efforts are underway to form partnerships with local food distributors, food pantries, businesses, and county programs.

Welcome Back Rocks

Over 300 students, families, and community members attended the college’s Cerro Coso Rocks Welcome Back event in August. It was a great opportunity to get a real sense of what it is like to attend our local college. The real rock stars of the event were the students and staff who came dressed for the occasion. Faculty were on hand to greet and meet with students to share expectations and ease some of the first day tensions. It was a great opportunity to meet new people, familiarize themselves with the people and facilities of the college, and catch up with those who have been away for the summer.

Helping Students Save on Textbook Costs

Studies show that reducing textbook costs allows students to move through their programs quicker because they can afford to take more classes instead of paying for costly textbooks. Some students avoid taking a class entirely due to the cost of the textbook, or attempt to complete a class without purchasing a textbook. Cerro Coso is committed to helping students by reducing the cost of textbooks through the adoption and creation of Open Education Resources (OERs), and integrating library resources to replace expensive commercial textbooks. Open Educational Resources (OERs) are educational materials that are in the public domain or have a license that permits anyone on the internet to freely use, edit, and distribute those resources. Cerro Coso was one of 26 California Community Colleges and 19 CSUs to receive a grant to save students money by empowering professors to adopt high quality, free, and open educational resources for course materials. Two years later the AB 798 Textbook Affordability grant has resulted in 45 course sections at the college adopting OER’s, impacting 1,307 students, and collectively, saving students a total of $174,826. The college not only met the grant requirement of reducing textbooks costs with the inclusion of OERs in 22 course sections but also exceeded it, more than doubling the number of courses using OERs. Cerro Coso will continue its commitment to reduce textbook costs. The college’s goal is to eventually allow students to complete a degree with zero textbook costs. Symbols are included in the college’s online course schedules to indicate courses that use OERs.
The Future is Bright

The theme for the 37th Annual Access Programs Awards ceremony was “The Future is Bright”. Former program student Pedro Santiago returned to congratulate and encourage the students in their pursuits of a college education. “A higher education is an investment that pays dividends over the course of a lifetime,” stated Santiago. Special recognition went to: Huan “Cyndi” Liang, Access Programs Ridgecrest Student of the Year, and Jordan Rotarius, Access Programs Lake Isabella Student of the Year. Logan Piper received recognition as Graduate of the Year for his work with the Student Services United and Rainbow Club. Professors Yihfen Chen and Debra Rundell were named Outstanding Faculty of the Year.

Angel Tree Event Bring Smiles During Finals

Exams are stressful enough and holiday festivities don’t make preparing and studying for exams any easier. Every year, Access Programs hosts an Angel Tree party for students in the program, providing an afternoon away from the stress of finals to enjoy some fun and activities with their families. With compassionate hearts and selfless acts of kindness, Cerro Coso staff and friends donate gifts for every child in attendance, recognizing the sacrifices they make while their parent’s pursue an education.

Disability Awareness

Access Programs hosted a Disability Awareness obstacle course at the Ridgecrest campus in October on the lawn in front of the LRC. Understanding obstacles was the theme for the activities designed to build awareness of those in our community who face disability related obstacles every day. “Our goal is to increase understanding about what’s it’s like to have a disability from real-life experiences,” stated Pam Campbell, Director of Access Programs. “It’s important that we get the message out that we support persons of all abilities.”

Students Supporting Students

College is a big step for many students and Access Program’s peer mentors are here to help students be successful through their college experience. They serve as a resource, a helping hand, a sounding board, and a referral for services. Simply put, they care about student success. Student Angie Iraheta has been serving as a peer mentor for three semesters. “I love helping other students through my own experiences,” she said. “They are so grateful for the assistance.” Mentors are assigned up to three students at a time and engage in one-on-one mentoring, serving as positive role models. Peer mentors help students improve study skills, assist students in developing a better connection to the campus, help students adjust to the new college environment, help grow the program, and support staff by assisting with office duties. They also assist in coordinating program activities and promoting student engagement. A psychology major at Cerro Coso, Iraheta is currently working on an Associate’s Degree for Transfer and one day hopes to become a high school counselor. Her plans are to graduate from Cerro Coso in the spring of 2019 and then transfer to a four-year university. Iraheta feels connected with the college, staff, and students and encourages other students to get involved in the program. The benefits for mentors are increased communication and interpersonal skills, leadership and collaboration skills, confidence and motivation, and facilitation skills. Peer mentors offer guidance, encouragement, and a supportive network that contributes to their mentee’s overall success at the college. Not everyone is cut out for the job of a peer mentor, but those who are selected, like Iraheta, love what they do.

Activities in Review

- Coffee with Counseling
- UC Irvine Rep on Campus
- UC Riverside Veterans Services Information Session
- Hunger Free Campus
- Open Houses at all campuses
- Cerro Coso Rocks Welcome Back
- STOMP Conference at UCLA
- Show Me the Way to Aid
- Medical Assisting Public Information Session
- 40 Money Management Tips
- Budgeting for College Students
- College Day
- Career Exploration Day
- Transfer Awareness Week Activities
- Transfer Workshop—Calculate your Transfer GPA
- Transfer Workshop—CSU Application
- Transfer Workshop—UC Application and Transfer Admission Planner
- Transfer Workshop—UC Personal Insight Questions
- Cash for College Financial Aid Workshop
VIP Friendraiser in Tehachapi

The CCCC Foundation held a VIP Friendraiser at the Tehachapi campus in October. The affair provided an opportunity for Cerro Coso staff, faculty, and administrators to introduce themselves to community leaders in a relaxed atmosphere. It was a beautiful evening in the campus courtyard in which to meet, greet, network, and share the many educational benefits and opportunities Cerro Coso and the Foundation have available in Tehachapi.

Manufacturing Day

Opening doors and opening minds was the goal for Manufacturing Day, held in the College Welding Lab on Friday, October 5. Designed to inspire the next generation of manufacturers, the event was part of an effort to draw greater attention to today’s manufacturing environment and the outstanding opportunities that a career in manufacturing can provide. Cerro Coso’s Welding Lab showed students, parents, and educators what modern manufacturing is all about. A career in welding could offer more choices of industries to work in and advancement opportunities than just about any other career choice. Welders are needed in almost every industry and those who want to advance their career have the ability to do so. It is an industry that spans the globe, and can be applied to a variety of different sectors. Welders can find jobs in manufacturing, inspection, engineering, robotics, education, project management, sales, transportation, shipbuilding, bridge building, construction, and so much more. The event addressed common misperceptions about manufacturing in the hopes of inspiring students and community members to pursue manufacturing careers, and to strengthen the future of manufacturing to avoid the talent shortage on the horizon.

Early College Awareness

A day of fun and exploration for area 5th graders who come to the Cerro Coso Ridgecrest/IWV campus to learn about the different programs and services, I’m Going to College Day is held every year to inspire young people to pursue a college education. The two-day event included 493 fifth-graders from ten local elementary schools, who enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities that included demonstrations from the college’s Health Careers Program, Mad Libs by the English Department, Welding, and many other engaging department demos. “A day like I’m Going to College Day is a true testament to the excitement students possess for learning and the excitement our faculty have about being teachers,” said College President Jill Board. “Enthusiasm coupled with education gave almost 500 elementary students a new educational experience.”

Stuffed Animal Drive Aims to Help First Responders Comfort Kids in Emergencies

Students in Professor Debra Rundell’s Human Services class collected 48 teddy bears for Kern River Valley first responders to offer comfort and stability to children during crises. Students benefit greatly, both academically and emotionally, from volunteering their time to make the community and world a better place, and learn that the work they do can make a real impact in the world.
Leadership Project—Stigmafree IWV

Lisa Stephens participated in the first Leadership Ridgecrest Program designed to develop leaders in East Kern County with the skills, motivation, and background to take their communities into the future. A group project intended to create a place where people can come to get more information on mental health issues and learn about resources available, StigmaFree IWV is a series of open discussions on mental health issues. “We want to help get past the stigma of talking about mental health issues. We want to create conversations. This is what this project is about,” said group member Alex Diaz.

Ready-Set Back 2 School

Cerro Coso was on hand at the Kern County Department of Child Services Ready-Set Back 2 School Health and Wellness Fair to greet hundreds of children preparing for the new school year that came to gather information, backpacks, and school supplies, and get free haircuts, healthcare, and immunizations.

Young Students Create Aerial Imaging Device

Students in Jillian Kuczora’s (pictured) Engineering class at Opportunities for Learning were tasked with creating their own aerial imaging device as their final project. Often used during natural disasters to relay important information back to the operators, aerial photography is in widespread use for a diverse set of commercial, industrial, agricultural, government, and private purposes. Students created the design for the aerial imaging unit around requirements given to them by the instructor, utilizing everything they had learned in programming, design, circuitry, and robotics. Housed in a 2-liter soda bottle with balloons attached to slow down its descent, the unit was equipped with a robotic arm to activate the camera and take pictures as it was dropped off the roof of the Learning Resource Center at the college. Cerro Coso was honored to take part in the implementation of their project.

CDC Program Manager Jessica Krall and Peer Mentor Renee Santa-Maria assist with the Cerro Coso Outreach booth during the Ready Set Back 2 School event.

Cerro Coso athletes, coaches, staff, faculty, and administrators showed their patriotism by participating in the 2018 Parade of 1,000 flags.

Staff member Kristie Nichols and East Kern Director Lisa Stephens staff the Cerro Coso booth at the Tehachapi Mountain Festival.
Denim Day

Cerro Coso staff showed their support for survivors of sexual assault during National Denim Day on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. For the past 19 years, Peace Over Violence has run its Denim Day campaign on a Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

Students Host Candidates Forum

The Student Government of Cerro Coso (SGCC) held a Candidates Forum to inform students and local voters about candidates running for the office of KCCD Trustee to represent the CCCC service area, Ridgecrest Mayor, and Ridgecrest City Council. Students researched a variety of important topics and developed questions asked of the candidates. "It's important for our students to get involved in the political process," said Katie Bachman, Director of Outreach Services. "Conducting a forum like this is an exciting experience for young people. It allows them to talk directly with leaders about issues they're concerned about while gaining insight on how government works." It also provides candidates an opportunity to express their views openly so participants can understand their positions and make informed voting choices. SGCC President Subber Dhillon moderated the event.

Human Services Club Donates to Women’s Center

Students in the Human Services Club at the Ridgecrest campus accepted donations of diapers and hygiene products for the domestic violence shelter during October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention month. Awareness + Action = Social Change.

Outreach Activities

- Teddy Bear/Plus Toy Drive (KRV)
- Spring Writing Contest
- Denim Day
- Employer Meet & Greet
- Band Spring & Fall Concert
- Human Services Community Outreach Donation Drive
- Evening with the Candidates
- SGCC Haunted House
- Warp Trio Concert
- Cerro Coso Blood Drive
- 2018 Geocaching International Film Festival
- Cerro Coso Rocks
- Parade of 1,000 Flags
- Early College Awareness
- Ready Set Back 2 School
- Medical Assisting Information Session
- Open Houses/All Campuses
- IWV Economic Outlook Conference
- Career Exploration Day
- Manufacturing Day
- Relay for Life
- College Day
- International Day
- Men of Worth in Concert
- Ridgecrest Christmas Parade
45th Anniversary

In 2018, Cerro Coso Community College celebrated its 45th Anniversary. On Thursday, January 25th, the Ridgecrest campus community launched its year-long 45th Anniversary celebration with a group photo in the quad in the shape of 45. Something new was planned every month to commemorate the mission and accomplishments the college has made over the past 45 years. “Our students have filled our halls and our hearts, giving us purpose and passion,” said President Jill Board. “Our vision is to continue to elevate each student and every community we serve, no matter what.”

GOAL FIVE STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATION EFFECTIVENESS

45th Anniversary

CCCC 2018 Excellence Award

Four classified staff members, Paul Kuttig (System Support Specialist II), Julianne Maikai (Alternative Media Specialist), Nikki Gardepe (Assessment Assistant), and Ashlin Mattos (Job Development Specialist), received the Cerro Coso Community College Excellence in Education Award for 2018 for their leadership and contributions in developing and implementing a Classified Mentor Program at the college. The program provides trained mentors that serve as guides, facilitators, role models, and allies for new classified staff to help them successfully integrate into their new positions and the college culture. Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better.

Staff Promotions

Director of Access Programs
Pam Campbell

Director of Public Relations and Institutional Advancement
Natalie Dorrell

Director of Outreach Services
Katie Bachman

Maintenance & Operations/Custodian II
Michael Cowley

Admissions and Records/Technician II
Linda Gowin

Automotive Technician/Custodian I
Richard Benites

Program Manager, Dual Enrollment/Prison Education
Nicole Griffin

Admissions & Records/Technician I
Robin Duff

Couch Earns Masters

Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Lisa Couch successfully completed her Master’s in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Bellevue University. Couch joined the college in 1998 starting in Human Resources as a Department Assistant. Since that time, she has served in a number of positions including Assistant Director for Budget Management and Human Resources and Accounting Manager. A 2001 graduate of Cerro Coso, Couch also holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Bellevue University and is a 2014 graduate of the KCCD Leadership Academy. The depth and breadth of her knowledge in both fiscal and administrative services, and the college’s organization, landed her the position of Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services in 2016.
Leadership Academy Hits the Capital

CCCD President Jill Board, Technical Support Specialist Michael Barrett, and Assessment Assistant Nikki Gardepe joined the KCCD Leadership Academy in a January visit to legislators’ Sacramento offices to advocate on behalf of students. The Community College League of California’s 2018 Annual Legislative Conference provides a unique opportunity for Academy participants and leadership to connect with other advocates and learn the latest news on higher education in California.

Child Development Center Receives Recognition and Award

The Child Development Center (CDC) received recognition and award from Kern Early Stars (KES), a statewide movement to enhance early childhood programs through the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Using a QRIS program model, Kern is now able to bring training and resources to teachers and directors working in child development programs as well as family childcare providers throughout Kern County. Cerro Coso’s CDC has been participating in the voluntary, intensive assessment for continuous quality improvement since 2016. A lengthy and comprehensive process, centers are rated on seven different domains. The Ridgecrest CDC received a four star rating, indicating a “Mastering of High Quality Standards.” The rating and recognition entitles the program to a cash award based on number of awards, as well as a coach, professional development opportunities, and other resources.

Murabito New Dean of CTE

Maura Murabito, Dean of Career Technical Education, will provide academic leadership, direction, and support to the 17 technical education programs offered by the college at all 7 campuses. “Maura is a seasoned educator and her vast leadership experience in the classroom and administration will make her a tremendous asset to the college,” stated Cerro Coso President Jill Board. Her experience includes being a Marketing Teacher, Adult Education Coordinator, Instructional Services Supervisor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and most recently, Superintendent for a Regional Occupation Program in the Los Angeles area. She also served as school board member in Glendora, CA. Murabito holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Education from the University of La Verne, and is currently working on her doctorate in Transformational Leadership at Brandman University.

CTE Programs Earn Statewide Recognition

Eight Career Technical Educations (CTE) Programs at Cerro Coso earned California Community College’s Strong Workforce Stars recognition for success in helping students reach new heights in earning power and social mobility. Administration of Justice and Paralegal Studies received Silver Star status for attaining threshold outcomes on two metrics; and Business and Commerce, Business Administration, Clinical Medical Assisting, Licensed Vocational Nursing, Website Design and Development, and Computer Information Studies all received Bronze Star status for attaining threshold outcomes on one metric. Strong Workforce Stars is an annual recognition for career education programs, also known as career technical education, which debuted in 2017 within the California Community College system. It highlights programs whose graduates show significant gains in factors important for advancing social mobility – a substantial increase in earnings, attainment of a living wage, and a job closely matched with the field of study. The 2018 Strong Workforce Stars were awarded to career education programs in 12 industry sectors, based on earning gains, living wage attainment, and employment in field of study. Strong Workforce Initiatives and metrics are aligned with those of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, a national initiative designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
—Helen Keller
October 1-4 Cerro Coso was visited by a team of administrators and faculty to assist the college in its comprehensive self-evaluation for the purpose of the reaffirmation of accreditation. The self-study provides the Commission with the institution’s assessment of itself as a whole. The purpose of regional accreditation encourages institutions to improve academic quality, institutional effectiveness, and ultimately student success. ACCJC evaluation of institutions ensures the educational community, the general public, and other organizations and agencies that an institution has clearly defined objectives appropriate to higher education; has established conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected; and appear in fact to be accomplishing them; is so organized, staffed, and supported that it can be expected to continue to do so. The college awaits the commission’s action letter, conveying its judgement on the institution’s efforts that will be received in January after their meeting.

### New Staff Members Welcomed

**Education Advisor**
Fabian Meneses

**Executive Secretary, CTE**
Angela Nary

**Department Assistant II, Outreach Services/Student Activities/Equity**
Kari Benson

**Financial Aid Technician, Cerro Coso Promise**
Pedro Santiago

**Department Assistant II, Financial Aid**
Gabriel Gutierrez

**Director, A & R and Financial Aid**
Tiffany Haynes

**Laboratory Technician**
Loy Salarda

**Technician, A & R**
Linda Gowin

**Department Assistant III, Athletics**
Shay Scott

**Program Manager, Foundation & Institutional Advancement**
Lauren Falk

**Dean, Career Technical Education**
Maura Murabito

**Biology Professor, ESCC**
Andrew Burch

**Associate Teacher, CDC**
Rosie Cano

**Food Service Assistant I, CDC**
Maria Meza

**Groundworker I, M&O**
Richard Benites

**Custodian I, M&O**
Kyle Ruetschle

**Assistant Professor, Psychology**
Melissa Bowen

**Associate Teacher, CDC**
Johnna Cassel-Cloonan

**System Support Specialist I**
Julio Hernandez

**Associate Teacher, CDC**
Katerina Watt

**Program Manager for Dual Enrollment/Prison Education**
Nicole Griffin

**Teacher, CDC**
Jolene Crowell

**Educational Advisor**
Ayanna Spivey

**Assistant Professor, Mathematics**
Michael Bonner

**Program Manager, Safety & Security**
Todd Dearnmore

**Department Assistant II, ESCC**
Sarah Land

**Administrative Assistant**
Tanner Barnett

### Service Recognition

**25 Years**
John Daly
Jennifer Marshall
Kim Blackwell
Laura Vasquez

**20 Years**
Lisa Couch
Heidi Allen
Christine Swiridoff
Claudia Sellers
Norman Stephens
Penny Talley

**15 Years**
Candy Caine
Tiffany Haynes

**10 Years**
Loy Salarda

**5 Years**
Michael Cowley
Lisa Stephens
Caroline Sanderson
Julianne Maikai
David Villicana
Rene Mora
Jarrod Bowen
Benjamin Beshwate
Guck Ooi

### Adjunct Service Awards

**30 Semesters**
Linda Middleton
Anthony Damiano

**20 Semesters**
Jorge Martin
Christina Christenson-Rockwell

**10 Semesters**
Joy Donoho
Christopher Harper

### Retirements

**Director, Admissions & Records and Financial Aid**
Jennifer San Nicolas
(17 Years)

**Department Assistant, Bishop**
Deborah Martell
(27 Years)

**Professor, Psychology & Human Services**
Debra Rundell
(11 Years, 16 counting adjunct time)

English Professor Laura Vasquez receives her 10 year award from President Jill Board.
Professor Ward Now a Licensed Attorney in California

Paralegal Professor Dawn Ward was sworn in as a member of the State Bar of California in the Ceremonial Courtroom at the Historic Riverside Courthouse on Thursday, June 7th. Ward is now a licensed attorney in California, Ohio, and Illinois. A 1995 graduate of Burroughs High School, she joined the faculty of Cerro Coso in the fall of 2015. She holds a BA in Theater Arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a Juris Doctorate from Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law.

Dearmore - Safety & Security

Retired from the Kern County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) after 23 years of service as a Detentions Sergeant, Todd Dearmore is now Program Manager for Safety and Security at the college. While with KCSO he was a security supervisor, training manager, and tactical supervisor for the Sheriff’s Emergency Response Team. He also served 8 years in the U.S. Army National Guard as an Infantry Soldier. Dearmore holds a degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, and is also a graduate from S.W.A.T. Command and Team Leader schools and several FEMA courses.

As a part of our efforts on the Guided Pathways initiatives, Cerro Coso applied to the Central Valley High Education Consortium Leading from the Middle (LFM) Academy. We were accepted into the program and sent a team of five to participate. A team, consisting of Christine Small, Ryan Khamkongsay, Missy Gross, Tyson Huffman, and Chad Houck were accepted and attended two of three “convenings” at Cal Poly Pomona where they worked with a LFM coach through a series of activities focusing on helping to lead our school through some of the challenges that could manifest during our Guided Pathways work. During the first session, the team distilled the essence of Guided Pathways and created a short video primer that could be shared to help demystify the initiative. An excerpt from the transcript of the video is: “As our students progress through their experience at Cerro Coso, there are countless decisions they must make that directly affect how long it takes for them to reach their goal. When making these decisions, information and support may not be easily accessible resulting in choices that extend their stay with us. This is a product of a long-standing paradigm for community colleges that focuses on experience more than completion. If we could decrease the number of decisions required while simultaneously increasing the available information and support, then we could perhaps shift the paradigm so that completion is as important as the experience. This is all that Guided Pathways is: the conscious effort to decrease the number of decisions required by students while increasing the support at those decision points. That is it. By doing these two things, we can get better outcomes for students. We can do a better job at helping students finish what they start.” During the second session, the team identified and began work on a project specifically to help with ongoing efforts to improve the Cerro Coso experience. The project is in its infancy as a guide to Cross Functional Inquiry Teams (CFIT). CFITs are modeled after the successful Inquiry Groups project from the 2016-17 school year that collected feedback about specific aspects of the Cerro Coso experience. The CFITs could collect data in a similar fashion and then go further to explore initiatives, and recommend actions in order to improve student success. Chad, Tyson, Missy, Ryan, and Christine will be attending one more session in late September where they are hopeful to have at least a first draft guide to using CFITs, and to be making a positive impact on our Guided Pathways efforts.
Moving Never Looked So Good

After three very long years of being temporarily relocated into modulars and other nooks and crannies around campus, the time came to transition back into the main building at the Ridgecrest campus. Both exciting and challenging, the move back began Monday, October 15th, and was structured to minimize the impact on students and the community. Employees played a big role in relocating offices back into the main building, so open communication was important. A communications plan was put in place to keep all stakeholders equally informed of office closures and relocations. Successfully organized and executed, the hard work of Vice President of Administrative Services Lisa Couch, IT, and Maintenance and Operations staff kept everyone on track, informed, and stress at a minimum. A gateway to the entire East side of the campus, the newly remodeled student-centered facility is exciting and innovative and designed to foster creativity, collaboration, flexibility, and communication. It is good to be back together again.

Staff members l to r: Debbie Gregory, Amber Reed, Sylvia Sotomayor, Jennifer Curtis, and Kellen Nelepovitz showcase the new flexible learning space on the third floor. These types of spaces allow users to modify their environment to fit a variety of learning styles and activities from small group to large group exercises.

If you bring creative professors together with dedicated students in a state-of-the-art facility, the possibilities are infinite.

The things that excite you are not random. They are connected to your purpose. Follow them.
**Revenue C Bond**

- **Bonds Issued**: $11,474,392
- **Interest Earnings to Date**: $3,091,262
- **Unissued Bonds**: $3,526,608
- **Total Revenue**: $18,091,262

**Expenditures**

- **Completed Projects**
  - Mammoth Lakes Library $3,500,948
  - Dave & Roma McCoy Learning Center $2,214,218
  - Road, Parking Lot and ADA $980,569
  - Building Exterior Maintenance $236,982
  - Art Expansion & Monument Sign $465,258

- **Allocated Funds**: $43,887,741

**Revenue G Bond**

- **Allocated Funds**: $40,704,853
- **Expenditures**
  - **Completed Projects/Planning**
    - IWV Campus Welding Lab $221,029
    - IWV Campus Gym Roof $62,341
    - California City Child Care $17,537
    - IWV Campus Starwells $59,153
    - IWV Campus HVAC $193,854
    - IWV Campus Lecture Center $314,040
    - IWV Campus Fine Arts $342,189
    - IWV Campus 2nd Floor $564,415
    - IWV Campus Library Supplemental Repairs Planning $171,666
    - CC IVT Sites-7 Sierra Cities (Accord Video Bridge) $513,242
    - Bridge Repairs $483,426
    - Campus-Wide Fire Alarm Intrigation $185,464
    - CC 3rd Floor Modernization Admin. $29,836
    - CC Cal City Master Planning (Land Acquisition) $842,032
    - CC Cal City Storm Drain Lateral $20,000
    - CC Childcare Facility Expansion $176,341
    - CC Gym Parking Repairs $145,404
    - CC Irrigation System $54,009
    - CC Kern River Center $48,560
    - CC Main Campus Library (includes equipment) $1,065,083
    - CC Maint & Operations New Vehicles (New Autos) $50,000
    - CC Photo Voltaics $18,191,230
    - CC Science Modernization $4,764,045
    - CC Security Systems $198,565

- **Net Remaining Funds**: $0

**Revenue J Bond**

- **Allocated Funds**: $43,887,741
- **Expenditures**
  - **Completed Projects/Planning**
  - **Projects in Process - Expenditures to Date**
    - IWV Campus Main Building $12,455,587
  - **Total Complete & In Process Projects Expenditures**
    - IWV Campus Main Building $10,782,818
    - Net Remaining Funds $7,308,444
  - **Committed**
    - IWV Campus Main Building $79,685
    - Mammoth Occupancy & Exit Signage $15,292
    - Power Projects $19,635
    - Other Projects $239,016
    - Total Completed Projects $7,751,602
    - Projects in Process to Date Mammoth Modernization/Science Classroom $3,031,216
    - Total Projects in Process $3,031,216
    - Total Complete & In Process Projects Expenditures $10,782,818
    - Net Remaining Funds $7,308,444

**Expenditures**

- **Completed Projects**
  - IWV Campus Main Building $1,692,759
  - IWV Physical Ed Gymnasium Renovation $8,627,957

- **Allocated Funds**: $40,704,853

**Net Remaining Bond Funds after Expenditures & Commitments**: $0

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**The Facilities Master Plan was completed in Fall 2018 as a follow-up to the Educational Master Plan, and gives broad direction on future facility needs. The plan details how Cerro Coso will address both the most pressing and the longer-range facilities and physical plant priorities. Cerro Coso's mission is to support and foster the development of the student body while providing safe learning environments, positive campus experiences, and creating conditions that motivate and inspire students to succeed. The plan focuses on the land and facilities that will be needed to facilitate future growth at all campus locations. Input opportunities were provided throughout the planning process and involved a variety of campus stakeholders, including faculty, staff and students, and kept the vision for a complete campus experience at the forefront of all conversations. The final project meets the five established goals: 1) provide ample space for course offerings and student support; 2) encourage active teaching and learning; 3) embrace unique campus settings; 4) focus on attractive multipurpose gathering student space; and 5) invite the community onto our campuses. The college looks forward to the opportunities that the future facilities will provide to our students and communities. The Facilities Master Plan is available at: [http://files.cerrocoso.edu/2018-19_Facilities_Master_Plan.pdf](http://files.cerrocoso.edu/2018-19_Facilities_Master_Plan.pdf)**
Athlete's Moving On In 2018

**Arizona Christian University, Phoenix AZ**
- Jose Martinez
- Rey Torres

**California State University, Chico, CA**
- Bryce Beauchamp

**Fisher College, Boston, MA**
- Abrian Dickson

**Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX**
- Corey Young

**Union College, Schenectady, NY**
- Charles Grant

**University of Saint Katherine, San Marcos, CA**
- Solomon Maddox

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**Young Receives Athletic Academic Achievement Award**

Student-athlete Corey Young is the recipient of the CCCC Foundation Athletic Academic Achievement Award. As a sophomore, Young has demonstrated dedication and commitment both on the field and in the classroom. A graduate of Burroughs High School, Young has played for the Coyotes for 2 years and has signed to play baseball at Tarleton State University in Texas. He graduated from Cerro Coso in May with an Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration for Transfer and an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts: Social and Behavioral Science.

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**Coyotes Welcome Bennett and Dugan**

Cerro Coso announced the addition of two new head coaches to lead the women’s softball and men’s basketball programs during the 2018-2019 school year.

**Devin Bennett** was hired to lead the Coyote Softball Program. She comes to Cerro Coso by way of Southwestern College in the San Diego area where she served as assistant coach to Yasmin Mossadeghi since the summer of 2015. As a member of the Jaguar coaching staff, she helped to lead the team to records of 24-17 (2016), 27-12 (2017), 24-15 (2018).

**Chris Dugan** took the lead with the Men’s Basketball Program as it enters its third year since reinstatement. Dugan comes to Cerro Coso by way of College of the Sequoias, a member program of the Central Valley Conference and a perennial strength in the California Community College basketball scene. His knowledge and prior experience at both the four-year and community college level will serve as an asset to the Coyote Athletic Department and he will become a valued mentor to the student-athletes on campus.
Women’s Volleyball Team
Macey Balas
Kasey Furnish
Olivia Henden
Tinoi Martin
Alexis Naples
Hannah Quinto
Elizabeth Schmidlin
Dahlia Stucky
Dresden Stucky
Kiana Thompson
Elise Winters

Head Coach Kim Young
Assistant Coach Sam Celestine
Volunteer Stephanie Phillips

Women’s Soccer Team
Makaylia Aceves
Kassandra Arriaga
Maisy Ball
Daphne Castillo
Makaylee Garcia-Moore
Grace Haddock
Rosa Ibanez
Mya Morales
Estefany Partida
Micah Pearson
Chandler Petrovich
Annika Ramon
Lizbeth Rodriguez
Marvela Santos
Lesly Tejeda

Head Coach Egmont Cervantes
Assistant Coach Bradley Battung
Volunteer Sergio Mendoza

Women’s Softball Team
Kassandra Arriaga
Ysabel Camarena
Alexis Gutierrez
Jessica Holman
Trinity Holman
Mikayla Leal
Annika Ramon
Sarita Reyes
Briannah Stafford
Madison Stinson
Dahlia Stucky
Dresden Stucky

Head Coach Devin Bennett
Assistant Coach Rachel Ross

Men’s Basketball Team
Jordan Dixon
Brock Duffield
Johnathan Foster
Whitney Garrett
Vernon Hardison
Mark Moreno
Jordan Pumphrey
Anthony Rucker
Isiah Thomas
Colyn Waldron

Head Coach Chris Dugan
Assistant Coach Garriden Wolff

Men’s Baseball Team
Toshiki Aburaki
Eric Alicea
Naythan Arroyo
Tyson Banks
Bryce Beauchamp
Gio Benuto
Diego Delgado
Eric Dominguez
Paul Dykes
Luis Garay
Charles Grant
Marcial Hernandez
Tristan Horton
Caleb Johnson
Cameren Landreth
Solomon Maddox
Cole Martin
Jose Martinez
Jared Onstott
Javier Ramos
Cale Sherrick
Tyler Sizemore
Ben Stoner
Peyton Speed
Nick Tamez
Roy Torres
Corey Young

Head Coach Justus Scott
Assistant Coach Chris Kuber

24 CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE | 2018 Report to the Community
On May 19, 2018, the inaugural 1993 Coyote Baseball Team was inducted into the Cerro Coso Athletic Hall of Fame. The team represents the starting point of the Coyote baseball program which just completed its 25th season. “This group is recognized for laying the foundation for which the program stands, and we were honored to have representatives from the original team attend the ceremony alongside their former coach, Dick Adams and Dave Navarro,” said Athletic Director and former Coyote baseball player John McHenry. It was an event filled with emotion and memories of the glory days as the 1993 team reunited alongside baseball alumni from following years on the Cerro Coso campus.

Hosted by the Cerro Coso Coyote Club, the focus of the night was recognizing athletic achievement in the Indian Wells Valley while enshrining former Coyotes into the College’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

Cerro Coso 1993 Coyote Baseball Team (25th Anniversary)
Burroughs High School Boys Varsity Football Team
Burroughs High School Girls Varsity Tennis Team
California City High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team
IWV Youth Baseball Sidewinder (Pony Division) Baseball Team
Gateway Elementary School 5th Grade Girls Basketball Team
Gateway Elementary School 5th Grade Boys Basketball Team

L to r: Heather Ostash, Vice President of Student Services; Jill Board, Cerro Coso President; Cole Martin; Tyson Banks; Justus Scott, Head Baseball Coach; and John McHenry, Athletic Director. Two Cerro Coso Baseball players, Cole Martin and Tyson Banks, signed letters of intent to play for universities next fall. Martin, a native of Ridgecrest and a Burroughs High School alum, will attend Colorado State University-Pueblo. Originally from Odessa, Texas, Banks will be attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. “This might be the best part of my job,” said Head Baseball Coach Justus Scott. “My most favorite part of this job is seeing these guys work hard for two years and move on to another school on a baseball scholarship.”

Two Cerro Coso Baseball players, outfielder Rey Torres (left) and pitcher Jose Martinez (right), have signed letters of intent to play for Arizona Christian University in Phoenix. Both players came to Cerro Coso to play ball from Puerto Rico and are excited about their next adventure at the accredited, private, non-profit, Christian university in Phoenix. The school is a member of the NAIA’s Golden State Athletic Conference.

Representatives of the 1993 Coyote Baseball Team inducted into the CC Athletic Hall of Fame (l to r): Dave Navarro (Assistant Coach), Jason Harrison, Kevin Sarna, Paul Basset, Ernie Verso, Keith Habig, and Dick Adams (Coach).
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45th Anniversary Gala - A Great Success!

Party goers were more than delighted as they participated in Cerro Coso’s 45th Anniversary Gala at the Kerr McGee Center on Friday, March 16. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal of tri-tip, chicken, or vegetable lasagna prepared by Todd McKinney and RidgeProject volunteers, after a ‘red carpet’ entrance complete with photos by Sierra Photography. Among the many distinguished guests of the evening were KCCD Chancellor Tom Burke and wife Tina, Porterville Interim President Bill Henry and wife Gina, Dr. Mary Retterer, retired President of Cerro Coso, Mayor Peggy Breeden, and Aaron Falk from Congressman Kevin McCarthy’s office. Chip Holloway, former Foundation President, was the Master of Ceremonies and introduced the speakers for the evening. Cerro Coso English Professor Matt Crow served as the auctioneer for desserts, raising more than $1,400 from eight donated desserts. Mayor Peggy Breeden congratulated the college on its 45 years of service. A former trustee with the Kern Community College District, Congressman Kevin McCarthy sent a congratulatory video message followed by a reading by Field Representative Aaron Falk of the Congressional Record presented by Congressman McCarthy in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the College. College President Jill Board debuted the Foundation’s new President’s Circle that supports the students and work of the college along with the new Cerro Coso Promise Scholarship. The evening’s festivities ended with dancing to great music provided by Ted Lemon of Sound Waves. It was an evening wonderfully spent, and all involved are now resting up for the next anniversary in 5 years when the College will celebrate its 50th. “A big thank you to a lot of people who made Cerro Coso’s 45th Anniversary Gala and benefit auction a resounding success in support of the great work of the college,” stated Foundation President Deidre Patin. “Your generosity and hard work will help the Cerro Coso Community College Foundation in its efforts to help build better futures for students, their families, and their communities.”

Cerro Coso Promise– Promising a Bright Future

The Cerro Coso Promise is a scholarship intended for hard-working, dedicated students that deserve an education, regardless of financial or personal status. By meeting basic criteria, students may qualify for up to $1,000 per semester for 2 years to help with tuition, books, and fees after financial aid and other scholarships are applied.

2018 Promise Scholarship Recipients

| Cerro Coso Promise | Danielle Weber | Eric Estrada | Jose Gonzalez | Jacob Gregory | Ross Hill |
| Kilroy Foundation | Tricia Aguierre | Nathanial Aralar | Jannah Bismillah | Nicholas Dawson | Lucas Lusher |
| Guadalupe Orozco | Mary Maguina | Cole Martin | Eben Peterson | Johnathan Shaw |
| Rachel Quan | Marie Sanders | Ma’Maka Sat | Helga Schmidt | Cynthia Shaw |
| Michael Skipworth |

| SCE STEM | Julia Barnum | Rowan Benson | Brian Christensen | Maria Gaivoronski |
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A Foundation for Life

The Cerro Coso Community College Foundation is the focus of community support for Cerro Coso’s students and faculty. Over the years, thousands of caring citizens have given time and money to the Foundation, thus ensuring that quality education is available for everyone in the college’s service area. Private gifts, donations, and other non-tax sources provide for scholarships, endowments, learning aids, technical equipment, and educational programs and services. Unrestricted gifts are especially welcome because they provide funds for use where the need is greatest or allow the Foundation to respond to unexpected opportunities.

No gift is too small. All contributions are welcomed from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Some donors choose to fund special programs and projects, while others provide for a memorial or tribute to a loved one through scholarship funds.
Star Party

The weather was perfect and the stars were shining bright with minimal light, providing an ideal venue for stargazing at the 2018 Astronomical Barbecue. More than 400 participants explored the celestial bodies thanks to the help of Cerro Coso faculty, students, the China Lake Astronomical Society, and the Maturango Museum. The success of this year’s event would not have been possible without the assistance of the Foundation Board, Cerro Coso employees, donors, and event sponsors.

Thanks for making this a memorable event!

Star Party Sponsors

Galactic Level

Copernicus Level

Kepler Level

2018 Employee Giving Program

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Resa Hess
Tyson Huffman
Jessica Humble
Michael Kane
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Corey Marvin
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Pedro Santiago
Claudia Sellers
Blaine Simmons
Sylvia Sotomayor
John Stenger-Smith
Christine Swiridoff
Penny Talley
Frank Timpone

Staff members (l to r) back: Katie Bachman, Kellen Nelepovitz, Amber Reed, and Fabian Meneses have some fun in the photo booth. Front: Kari Benson and Lauren Falk.

Suzanna Ama
Kathryn Bachman
Vivian Baker
Dean Bernsten
Jill Board
Pam Campbell
Wendy Coward
Lisa Couch
Matt Crow
Jennifer Curtis
Jessica David
Natalie Dorrell
Deborah Gregory
Nicole Griffin
Resa Hess
Tyson Huffman
Jessica Humble
The Cerro Coso Community College (CCCC) Foundation relies more than ever on partnerships with community and corporate leaders who share a commitment to ensuring that students have access to affordable, high-quality community college education. The CCCC Foundation launched their new President’s Circle during the 45th Anniversary Denim and Diamonds Gala in March of 2018.

The President’s Circle offers donors the opportunity to support the College in an ongoing, sustaining way by contributing to a minimum of $1,000 of unrestricted support annually. The greatest benefit of President’s Circle membership is the pride donors experience knowing that their dedication to Cerro Coso will make a significant difference in the lives of students. As a member, they receive invitations to select events throughout the year including the scholarships awards ceremony, campus events, and an exclusive President’s Circle reception as well as receiving public recognition for their support.

2018 President’s Circle Sponsors

2018 Donors

Diamond Level

Elks Lodge of Ridgecrest
Marla Gaivoronski
Gkk Works
Gon-LED
Renee Hartsman
Chip Holloway
Jessi House
Jewelry To Go
Johnson & Johnson
Elise Kroeze
David Kurdeka
Kari E. Lane
Kayla Linton
Forrest and Kay Lloyd
Julia Loera
Shelby Logan
Mashel Lyon
Mary Maguina
Julie Maikai
Tammy McKinney
Michelle Mendiola
Andelle Möllersten Estate
Rhonda Morrison
Maura Murabito
Pablo Muro
Kellen Nelepovitz
J. TeSlaa & L. Parker
Martha Paz
Pita Fresh

Gold Level

Pizza Factory
Amber Reed
Ridgecrest Cinemas
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
RidgeProject
Guadalupe Rios
Romancing the West
S & M Coins and Collectables
Gurminder Sangha
Ma’aka Sat
Searles Valley Minerals
Jonathan Shaw
Jack Shrader Trust
Blain Simmons
Brenda Sollis
Sylvia Sotomayor
Southern California Edison
Starbucks
Alexia Svejda
Tel-Tec
Tip-Top Arborists
Dulce Trujillo
Francisco Vidrio
Walmart
Arthur Ward
R.W. & Laura Warren
June Wasserman
Chan White
Thomas Yeomans

The Cerro Coso President Jill Board presents Dana Griffin, Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union’s Vice President of Operations, with a plaque at the first President’s Circle Luncheon held at the college on Thursday, September 27th.
2018 Scholarships

The CCCC Foundation awarded more than $115,400 in scholarships to Cerro Coso students in 2018, due to the extraordinary generosity of our wonderful donors, community partners, faculty, and staff.

SPRING 2018

Barnes & Noble Scholarship
Jessica Hiatt
David Sweeney
Angela Van Vleet

Steven Paul Brown Memorial Scholarship
David Sweeney

Connie Farrell Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Mary Maguina

Honors Scholarship
Elinelle Lee

The Bernard Osher Foundation Scholarship
Maria Anzaldo
Penny Apperson
Shaun Bott
Holly Bradley
Britney Brown
Patricia Burdette
Alexandra Credico
Tom Dodson
Vitalii Dubytskyi
Francis Elhelou
Jessica Hiatt
Janis Kunz
John Malear
Andrea McDonald
Heather Menzel
Sharon Nelson
Barbara Nichols
Kaelie Rae
Sophoandara Ry
Helga Schmidt
Jennifer Senezbambeth
Angela Van Vleet

SCE STEM Scholarship
Ruby Horta
Alexxa Varela
Autumn Wilder
Sophoandara Ry

FALL 2018

Tania Lynn Atkinson Memorial Scholarship
Kira Peters

Vivian Boultinghouse Memorial Scholarship
Tricia Aguirre

Dick Malone Family Scholarship
Anita Keller

James M. Pearson Memorial Scholarship
Anthony Heltsley
Kira Peters

June Wasserman Scholarship
Eben Peterson
Nathalie Ruan
Courtney Somerville

Ray Marsh Memorial Scholarship
Mary Maguina

Gilbert Plain Family Scholarship
Ruby Horta
Cassidy Keys

Steven Paul Brown Memorial Scholarship
Timothy Keathley
Ma’aka Sat

Raymond A. McCue Memorial Scholarship
Heather Menzel

Bill Whitworth Memorial Scholarship
Ruby Horta

Cox-Veatch Family Memorial Scholarship
Jessica House

John “Jack” Richer Memorial Scholarship
Anthony Heltsley

Raymond A. McCue Memorial Scholarship
Michael Skipworth

SCE STEM Scholarship
Elinelle Lee

The Bernard Osher Foundation Scholarship
Clinicia Aguirre
Colette Nicod

Order of the Golden Slipper Scholarship
Katelyn Jones

Frank Dickey Memorial Scholarship
Tricia Aguirre
Colette Nicod

Nathalie Ruan
Courtney Somerville

Engility Scholarship
Anita Keller

Bill Whitworth Memorial Scholarship
Ruby Horta

Myrian “Speed” Handeland Family Scholarship
Jessica Baker
Jacob Gregory

Textbook Scholarship
Guadalupe Orozco

Patti Keith Scholarship
John Santiago

Helen Weals Family Scholarship
John I. Santiago

Anton & Ruth Ozanich Family Scholarship
Kira Peters
Autumn Wilder

As a single mother of two children, going back to school full-time has been a challenge in many ways, including emotionally and monetarily. Your foundation’s financial support during my last year at Cerro Coso Community College will help relieve one of my constant worries—money—while I continue to strive towards my educational goal.”

—Anita
Do Something Great—Join The CCCC Alumni Association
Strengthen your Coyote connection and help support activities for current students by becoming a member of the Cerro Coso Community College Alumni Association. Call today! 760-384-6262

What’s In It For ME?

Student Scholarships – assist Cerro Coso students with the rising cost of educational expenses.

Social Involvement – opportunities for service, friendship, and networking.

Alumni Networking – meet new people, make connections, and enhance relationships at alumni events throughout the year.

Alumni Events – receive invitations to receptions, game events, and special activities.

Membership Benefits and Savings – enjoy the benefits of being an Alumni Association member through various discounts on insurance, hotel stays, and rental cars.

College & Alumni Information – receive information through the email about news and happenings at Cerro Coso.

Volunteer Opportunities – interact with alumni who hail from diverse backgrounds and preserve the Coyote spirit by participating in the life of the college.

Forever A Coyote
The Cerro Coso Community College Alumni Association (CCCCAA) helps to create the vibrant connection among alumni, students, faculty, parents, and friends as well as link the great community to our great college. All Cerro Coso Community College students enter into the “Forever a Coyote” family and the alumni association upon graduation and remain part of the community for life.

What is the Legacy You Want to Leave?

Erika Santiago
2018 Distinguished Alumna

A first generation college graduate, the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Speaker graduated from Cerro Coso in 2002 with an Associate of Arts Degree in Social Science and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with a Minor in Music from California State University, Bakersfield.

During her time at Cerro Coso, she served as Vice President of the Associated Student Body, and President of the Special Services Club. While at CSU, Bakersfield she served as the Social Chair of the Kappa Delta Nu Sorority and performed at Carnegie Hall with the CSUB Singers.

At Cerro Coso, Erika Santiago found her mission and purpose in life, and is very passionate about her work as a Social Worker for the Kern County Department of Human Services where she facilitates Welfare to Work Employment Workshops and carries the Family Reunification caseload.

“What makes a college degree special?” said Santiago to the graduates. “Unlike the stock market, our degrees never lose value,” she went on to explain. “No matter how much educational debt you incur your degree will never be repossessed. A college degree cannot be inherited; it must be earned by your own merits. A child of a Salvadorian woman who came to this country escaping the Civil War that lasted 12 years, my mother reminded me that I was privileged enough to be born in the ‘Land of Opportunities’ and that it was up to me to make something of myself.”

“What is the legacy you want to leave behind?” she challenged. “Mine was to inspire my younger brothers to attend Cerro Coso, and to become a strong woman that would be self-sufficient and independent and would be able to help my family financially. I wanted them to see that with all the disadvantages and barriers we had, a college degree was still attainable.”

“When I graduated from high school my father told me that if I wanted to go to college I was going to have to figure it out. I got a job and worked six months in Lone Pine to save enough to pay my first year of tuition. I then found another person who was planning on attending Cerro Coso and convinced her to pick me up on highway 395 in the mornings and we would split gasoline cost so I could attend college since I did not have a car. I did most of my computer work on campus and would do most of my reading on the drive back and forth and weekends. I recall having a hunger for knowledge and being so excited to attend class. I started seeing and meeting women holding positions of power at the college that seemed passionate about what they were doing. That inspired me to be like them, they became my role models! They had no knowledge of it and I probably never told them but they served as the career poster women of what was attainable.”

To date, Santiago and three of her siblings have attended Cerro Coso Community College. Three Cerro Coso Community College Degrees and three Bachelor Degrees decorate her mother’s walls, her pride and joy. Her youngest brother, John, is currently attending the college.

“What’s In It For ME?

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“Let’s not forget,” concluded Santiago. “It is up to us to provide the value our educational degree deserves and hold Cerro Coso Community College’s name up high.”

Cerro Coso celebrates your success Erika!
The Values at Cerro Coso Community College provide the foundation for all students, academic, and community activities.

**Educate**  
We are committed to student's learning and achievement;

**Innovate**  
We encourage individual and collective creativity in a rapidly changing world;
We implement best practices that facilitate and encourage innovation and success;

**Inspire**  
We model a culture of life-long learning;

**Serve**  
We celebrate the diversity of each individual: student, staff, and faculty;
We strive to deliver equitable services to all students at all sites; and
We foster community partnerships and the relationships we built with them.

The mission of Cerro Coso Community College is to provide tailored programs and equitable services to the students in the communities and rural areas we serve. We demonstrate a conscious effort to produce and support student success and achievement through traditional and distance delivery. To accomplish this mission we will provide:

- Degrees and certificates in transfer and career technical education;
- Remedial instruction;
- Comprehensive support services;
- Learning opportunities that develop ethical and effective citizenry; and
- Continuing education that is compatible with the institution’s primary mission.

Cerro Coso Community College will be recognized as a leader in higher education, a source of programs and services for tomorrow’s workforce, a model for student learning, and a partner with its diverse clientele and communities.