Eleven students in the first cohort of the accelerated welding track at Cerro Coso have successfully completed their welding certifications this summer, and are currently working with the college Job Development Specialist to secure employment. With funding from a TAACCCT Grant, Cerro Coso has been given the flexibility to design and maintain curricula in a dynamic environment which requires rethinking how courses provide value to students over time. The goal of the grant is to develop accelerated, intensive programs of study for students, enabling them to enter the workforce in a reasonable time frame. The challenge is to maintain the integrity and quality of the education provided. Through a collaborative process with the C6 Consortium, Cerro Coso has combined course learning objectives and defined outcomes into modules. Students are assessed for understanding and application prior to them moving on to the next module. In the accelerated tract, course content and assessment tools have been grouped into blocks, and students in a cohort move through all phases of the track together. “There is a lot of material to cover and it is fast paced; it is designed for students to go directly from the classroom into the workforce,” said Herman Foster, Welding Instructor. Breaking down the objectives and tasks into observable and measurable modules allows the instructor to identify achievement gaps early on and intervene accordingly. “It gives the students the skills they need to get a job now, and provides a pathway into an associate degree in welding technology from the college,” concluded Foster. Cerro Coso Community College… opening doors to a bright future!
COYOTE VOLLEYBALL OPENS WITH FIRST WIN

Cerro Coso’s Women’s Volleyball team had their season opener at home on August 31st and it was a resounding success. The lady coyotes played against two tough teams, Allan Hancock and Mt. San Jacinto, and went 1-1 over the weekend. In their first match against Allan Hancock the ladies came out victorious with an extremely strong performance against a good team. "For the first game of the season we were thrilled to see such a fantastic debut," said Athletic Director John Mercer. In the second game the ladies fell just short in a close match against a difficult Mt. San Jacinto team. Although the second game came with a loss the positive outlook that we now have for the season far outshadows the one loss. The ladies looked great and they hoped to take that momentum into their next home game on Friday September 6 at Cerro Coso vs. Southwestern at 6pm. Bump, Set, Hit, Spike. That's the way we like to fight! Go Coyotes!

CAREER EXPLORATION

What do nurses, bankers, police officers, army soldiers, engineers, firemen, child care providers, physical therapists, and scientists have in common? They were among the many professions represented at this year’s Career Exploration Day held in the college gymnasium on Thursday, September 26, 2013. Three hundred high school juniors and seniors from six feeder schools participated in the event designed to expose students to the many career options available to them. Twenty-three businesses and organizations represented career paths that brought together professionals from a wide range of fields in a concerted effort to help students better plan their futures. Employers attend to increase visibility, to illustrate the benefits of employment in their organizations, and to provide information to students about entry-level jobs and internships. Participants toured the Ridgecrest campus, interacted with faculty members and college students, and explored the educational requirements, resources, and interesting career professions. Burroughs High School student Zack McGuire won a Galaxy Tablet generously donated by WalMart. Other donors included Pepsi and Barnes and Noble. “It’s important that these high school students connect education with career success,” stated Karee Hamilton, Counselor and Event Coordinator. During Career Exploration Day, students have the opportunity to learn about exciting careers from people who actually work in those fields and are encouraged to start thinking about what they might want to do after high school. Cerro Coso… changing lives one path at a time.
HERE’S THE SCOOP

Nothing beats the heat like a sweet frozen treat! The Student Government of Cerro Coso (SGCC) held an old fashioned Ice Cream Social at the Ridgecrest campus and dished out the scoop on student clubs, athletics, information about the campus, and different events planned for the fall. Students showed up in full force to pile on the sweet toppings while engaging in informal conversations. It was a great opportunity to welcome new and returning students to the college and share the many activities and resources available, as SGCC student leaders sought to connect and inform students over a refreshing treat. A great start to the new semester…dessert was on THEM!

KRV DONATES TEXTBOOKS

Everyone knows that college textbooks prices are outrageous. Full-time students spend an average of $1,200 a year on textbooks and course materials. Nationally the cost of course materials has risen 812 percent since 1978 according to Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index data. Textbooks are an essential resource for college students, but sky-rocketing costs have forced them to do without or research alternatives. Recognizing textbooks and materials can be a major barrier to college affordability and success, the Kern River Valley Education and Cultural Foundation generously donated textbooks for students at the college’s KRV campus. The books, valued at over $1,300, were purchased from funds generated from activities of the Foundation that include the August River Rhythms Concert series. Available to all Cerro Coso students on a check-out basis, the books will assist with access and student learning, and will help overcome the financial burden facing many students at the KRV campus. Cerro Coso is inspired and grateful to the KRVECF for their efforts to help students succeed.

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION AND BAKE SALE

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed by thirty-nine brave men who changed the course of history. National Constitution Day is a time for us to continue their legacy and develop habits of citizenship in a new generation of Americans. The Student Government of Cerro Coso (SGCC) held a bake sale and handed out FREE copies of the constitution to students at the Ridgecrest campus on September 17, 2013, to commemorate the historic event. Constitution Day is an opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge of the Constitution at a time when constitutional issues, from privacy to presidential power, confront the nation daily.
STUDENTS COMMIT TO COMPLETION AT CCCC

Cerro Coso’s Phi Theta Kappa honor society held a Commit to Completion banner signing in the Student Center at the Ridgecrest campus as part of their endeavor to support the national education Commit to Completion initiative. The initiative is designed to help students understand the impact of completing their community college education, increase graduation and certificate completion rates, increase transfer and baccalaureate completion rates, and help boost the community’s skilled workforce. The goal is to forge connections—between the pledger and the pledgee, but also between the pledger and the various available resources that make fulfilling the commitment more likely. Phi Theta Kappa is doing their part to encourage others to challenge themselves and pledge to succeed. Way to go Beta Kappa Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa!

THE SKY’S THE LIMIT AT BBQ & STAR PARTY

The cool temperatures and clear sky, coupled with the darkest night of the month, provided the perfect conditions for stargazers at this year’s Astronomical BBQ and Star Party held on Friday, September 27, 2013. Created in 2006 as an education and public outreach event to share the wonders of the universe with the general public and raise funds; more than 250 visitors attended the family-friendly affair made profitable by the generous support of a variety of sponsors and donors. Special recognition goes to this year’s co-sponsors: Zurn’s Electric and C. Martin Company Inc. for providing all the food that was cooked and served by college staff. Guests were given an opportunity to take in the view from Cerro Coso’s picturesque vantage point, socialize with experienced amateur astronomers from the China Lake Astronomical Society, and get some tips about the night sky. The Maturango Museum’s portable planetarium was a welcome addition bringing excitement and a unique educational experience to the event. Science faculty member John Stenger-Smith and his band Treacherous Edges provided musical entertainment for the evening. Stargazers of all ages enjoyed great food, music, raffles, and a great view of the moon, planets, stars, and other celestial treats. The universe is ours to discover.