Parade of 1000 Flags

In a strong show of community support and patriotism, Cerro Coso Community College joined in paying tribute to the victims of 9/11 and those who serve to protect our great nation on Saturday, September 6, 2014. Students, staff, faculty, and administrators represented the college by carrying flags in the Parade of 1000 Flags, which has become a signature event for the Ridgecrest community. Hosted by the Exchange Club and the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, this year’s tribute commemorates the 13th anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11 and honored wounded warriors, firefighters, law enforcement, and emergency and military personnel. The activities concluded at Freedom Park where flag bearers posted their flags, followed by a brief ceremony. President Jill Board led the Cerro Coso group through this meaningful patriotic experience, “The sea of flags is an impressive reminder of the tremendous amount of gratitude and patriotism that exists for our Nation’s Veteran’s and First Responders.”

ICSOS Recognized at Bishop Open House

The Bishop Campus will soon be branching out thanks to a very generous donation by Dr. Terry MacAteer, the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools. ICSOS’s kindness included a new storage shed for the art compound; a multi-media cart with equipment, ceiling mounted projector, and speakers for the community room, a new sign welcoming students, and benches and drought-tolerant indigenous trees and plants to bring the Bishop campus to life. “This donation assists Cerro Coso in its mission to provide students with meaningful learning environments that maximize their potential,” said Cerro Coso President Jill Board. “Partnerships like ours allow us to share resources that add exceptional value in developing programs that produce top performers,” she said. The community was invited to attend an Open House and Reception on Thursday, August 28, 2014, to recognize ICSOS’s contribution in making the campus a more beautiful venue for students. “By focusing on improving the college campus in Bishop, this donation will bolster student success as students transition from high school to college, and from college admissions to completion, creating a stronger educational conduit for Inyo County residents,” concluded Board. Partners in Education – advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth.
Hightower Earns Doctorate

Cerro Coso proudly congratulates Professor Matt Hightower on the successful completion of his degree of Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) with emphasis in quantitative methods from Northcentral University, something he has wanted to accomplish for over 30 years. He found Northcentral’s fully accredited online program too appealing to pass up. The topic of Dr. Hightower’s dissertation was A Comparative Study of Participant Satisfaction with Group Decision-Making between Consensus and Analytic Hierarchy Process Techniques and he held six quasi-experimental group decision-making sessions, two up north and four in Ridgecrest, using Cerro Coso faculty, staff, and community members as subjects. He truly appreciated the tremendous support he received from the college president, vice president, ESCC director, and all those who participated in the study and encouraged him in meeting his goal.

Dr. Hightower was in the same cohort as CCCC adjunct instructor Anthony Damiano, who earned a Doctor of Education (EdD) degree during the same timeframe. Dr. Hightower began his career at the college in 1997 when he transferred from Bakersfield College to take a position at Cerro Coso’s Eastern Sierra College Center in Bishop and Mammoth Lakes. He played a key leadership role in the successful implementation of the college’s online education program, serving as faculty director for the program from 1997 to 2006. He is currently teaching business, computer information systems, and economics in class and online for the college. In addition to his Doctorate in Business Administration from Northcentral University, Dr. Hightower holds a BS and MBA from California State University, Bakersfield. He enjoys hiking, cycling, fishing, photography, and music and resides in the Mammoth Lakes area with his wife Kay. CONGRATULATIONS DR. HIGHTOWER!

ESCC Welcomes Leigh Duggan

Leigh Duggan first saw the Minarets on a backpacking trip in the Sierra Nevada when she could still dip her Sierra Club cup in the stream to drink the water. She fell in love with the Eastern Sierra, but it took her many decades to achieve her dream of living in the mountains. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, she began working as a legal secretary for criminal defense lawyers. Although she considered attending law school, she decided instead to finish her bachelor’s degree, and began working as a bilingual educator in the Silicon Valley. Leigh taught a variety of classes, specializing in working with second language learners in both Spanish and English. Following the graduation of her children from high school, Leigh heeded the mountains’ call and moved, first to Truckee and then to Mammoth Lakes in 2010. She worked at both Mammoth Middle School and Mammoth High School teaching English, History, and English Language Development. She began a tutoring business in Mammoth Lakes the first year of the drought, working with students in grades 2 – 11 in Math, English, Biology, and History. Unfortunately, like the snow, the business dried up, but Leigh’s love of the Eastern Sierra kept her in the area. She is delighted to be working with students again in both the Bishop and Mammoth Learning Resource Centers, and is looking forward to supporting them in all subject areas.

Leigh Duggan (left) assists student Terry Bowers (right) at the Bishop Campus.
Play, Learn, and Grow Together!

Cerro Coso welcomes Ana Gonzalez, the new Child Development Center Assistant in California City. Gonzalez assists the teacher in the preschool classroom, working with 3 to 5 year olds. "I love teaching children, watching them experience new things, and knowing that I made a difference in building the foundation for future learning," said Gonzalez. A full-time student at Antelope Valley College majoring in Child Development, Gonzalez says her job gives her hands on experience that will prepare her for a career in early childhood education. The best advice she ever got came from her mother who encouraged her to “go to school and be the best you can be.” She enjoys working with her “amazing coworkers” who know how to bring out the best in children and finds them to be professional, competent, knowledgeable, and dedicated to high quality childcare. “There’s a lot of creativity involved because you’re always coming up with something fun and new to do,” Gonzalez concluded. Early Childhood Education: one of the best investments we can make!

GED Exam Prep Course Returns

Cerro Coso is once again offering a General Educational Development (GED) Exam Preparation course, EDUC C005, online for those who want to take the GED. The GED Exam changed in 2014 with greater focus on in-depth thinking skills. The GED Exam Prep course provides additional practice to help pass the exam. Through the self-paced course materials, students will be assessed to identify specific areas for personalized practice. Practice may be completed online at home or in a Cerro Coso campus computer lab. Students will be provided with frequent feedback and additional help throughout the course. Once a student completes all materials, students will be given the GED Exam Practice before taking the actual GED Exam. Interested individuals may enroll in GED Exam Practice at any time throughout the fall 2014 semester. The course is a zero unit/no fee course; however, enrolled students are expected to demonstrate regular practice with the available materials. All required materials are available online through the course website and supplemental materials and resources are listed within the website. The GED exam is administered directly through Pearson VUE for $140 or $35 for each section of the exam. Pearson VUE is the leading provider of licensing examinations for State and Federal regulatory bodies and the only California sanctioned company with the ability to administer the GED. Pearson VUE offers the GED exam at Cerro Coso’s Ridgecrest and Bishop Campuses and other locations in Bakersfield and Lancaster.

Constitution Day Celebration

Cerro Coso students celebrated life, liberty, freedom, and prosperity during their Constitution Day festivities on Thursday, September 18, 2014. Students handed out copies of the Bill of Rights and FREE soda during Thirsty Thursday by the fountain at the Ridgecrest campus. Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens. Today, Constitution Day is a time for us to continue their legacy and develop habits of citizenship in a new generation of Americans.
Cerro Coso understands the public’s fascination with the night sky and goes the extra mile to welcome and accommodate guests that are keen to stargazing at their annual Star Party and Barbecue. This year’s event was held on Friday, September 26, 2014 on the north lawn in front of the Learning Resource Center. After an evening a good food, great music, planetarium shows, and raffles, participants stayed to enjoy the spectacular night sky at the Dr. Alex Shlanta Astronomical Observatory. Special thanks go out to this year’s event Co-Sponsors: Zurn’s Electric and C. Martin Co., Inc. for providing the food. The Maturango Museum delivered an out of this world experience in their portable planetarium, while Chemistry Professor John Stenger Smith and his band Treacherous Edge ushered the evening in with musical entertainment. Many local businesses showed their generous support by donating raffle items to help raise funds, and the China Lake Astronomical Society joined Astronomy Professor Scott Cameron in educating party goers on the impressive objects in the sky. Stellar Sponsorships provided by: Baskin Mechanical Engineers, Central Sanitary Supply, Gary D. Charlon, Sylvia Sotomayor, and Tel-Tec Morgan Clayton. The Cerro Coso Community College Foundation held this fundraising event in support of Cerro Coso programs, students, and staff. Hands on with science and astronomy - educational and fun for the whole family!

KRV GradGuru Spin to Win

The Kern River Valley Campus held a “Do You GradGuru” sign-up campaign at the beginning of the semester. Participating students were given an opportunity to spin the wheel to receive a “prize” when they GradGuru or refer a friend to GradGuru (all students were welcome to spin). GradGuru provides Cerro Coso students with advice, alerts, and rewards to help them stay on track to academic success and completion. Cerro Coso GradGuru’s...Do You? Download the app for FREE at the iTunes or Google App Store today!

About this Publication

The Coyote Howler is a publication of Cerro Coso Community College. For more information about the stories in this publication, or to include information in this publication, contact Natalie Dorrell, Public Information Manager, at 760.384.6260 or email ndorrell@cerrocoso.edu.