Campus Wide Initiatives & Highlights
College Planning Team Retreat (CPT)

- The College Planning Team held their annual retreat on Tuesday, January 27 at the Tournament Players Clubhouse with 45 staff members in attendance.
- A community panel of experts discussed the Trends in the Local Economy. Ken Striplin (City of Santa Clarita), Rosalind Wayman (Supervisor Antonovich’s office), Marlee Lauffer (Newhall Land) and Holly Schroeder (SCV Economic Development Corp) were our panelists.
- “Dust in the Wind – the impact of Statewide Initiatives on College Planning” was presented by Jerry Buckley and Joe Klocko.
- Barry Gribbons presented information on the College’s work toward developing a new Strategic Plan for 2015-18, as the annual program reviews are in and we are moving forward with the data.
- A group brainstorming and interactive session was conducted by myself and Joe Gerda to brainstorm and propose solutions to eliminate barriers at the State and College District level.
Administrators’ Retreat

• The Administrator’s met at Robinson Ranch on Friday, January 30 for their annual retreat.
• Mr. David Berry (guest presenter) discussed “Leading Change: Discovering Possibility at the Edge of Our Experience” which opened the discussion about the qualities of leadership needed through complex situations and changes that occur in an organization.
• Dr. Pauline Arneberg presented “Addressing Cultural Inequity” which allowed individuals to share about personal experiences related to inequity and ways in which administrators can affect positive change and create a more equitable environment for our students.
• This is always a great day and truly re-energizes us to strive to meet the needs of our students in new and different ways, and to empower those we work with to grow, reach and become better at what we do.
On January 29, the State Chancellor’s Office “Doing What Matters” initiative hosted the Regional College Conversation meeting for Workforce Development at Ventura College.

Van Ton-Quinlivan and I hosted the Region D meeting for our area and enjoyed meeting staff and representatives from the other colleges in our Region.

These regional meetings have been held with community college practitioners including CEOs, CIOs, CTE staff/reps, Deputy Sector Navigators, and faculty senate leaders.

The scope of these meetings has been to consider strategies and recommend policies and practices on issues such as flexibility, regional responsiveness, partnership with industry and student portability.

From the meeting, five TOP IDEAS were generated:

- Improve CTE Program Funding and Sustainability
- Align Academic Programs with Job Skill Requirements
- Change the Minimum faculty qualifications at the state level so they are flexible and competency-based
- Provide better access to timely and reliable labor market data
- Streamline the CTE curriculum process at the state & local levels; return control to the local level
Legislative Reception

On January 29, COC hosted a Legislative Reception in the UCEN lobby to honor the valley’s state and federal representatives.

- Attendance included administrators, educators, students and staff, local educators, local school board members, city officials, business representatives and community members.

- Elected officials made brief comments and were presented with gifts to thank them for representing the Santa Clarita Valley and making an impact in Sacramento on our behalf.
Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI)

We’re busy launching the initiative!
• The Executive Committee is formed and has met three times.
• The Advisory Committee is comprised of members of 17 statewide organizations and over 40 members. The Workgroups have met for the first time to create the indicators, professional development, and technical assistance visits.
• The initiative is on track to:
  ✓ Offer at least two professional development workshops in the north and south this spring (four total)
  ✓ Develop and implement an indicators system with colleges, targets to be set by June 30
  ✓ Secures CEO commitment to move forward
  ✓ Provide Technical Assistance Team visits this spring with seed grants
The UCLA Health System from Santa Clarita (Nickie Bonner) has joined the Chancellor’s Circle at the $10,000 level and we welcome them aboard!
Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner

• Held in the UCEN Lobby on Friday, January 30, the dinner was sold out with over 180 people in attendance to honor our Hall of Fame recipients:
  • Chip Chavez ~ Meritorious Service
  • Jim Luster ~ Wrestling, 1974-76
  • Frank Halcovich ~ Baseball, 1985-86
  • Dana Rattler ~ Track & Field, 2005-06
  • Avon Riley ~ Football, 1977-78

• Each awardee was recognized for their outstanding achievements in their sport and/or their service to the College’s athletic programs.
Fast Track Institute Wins Placement Award

- College of the Canyons Fast Track Institute received an “Outstanding Achievement Award” from the South Bay Workforce Investment Bureau in October 2014 and was recognized for its ability to funnel skilled, trained employees into the workforce.
- During 2013-14, Fast Track graduates in the CNC Machining and Assembly and Test Technicians programs enjoyed a 77% placement rate in the professional realm.
- It is confirmation that we can put people through a course for seven weeks and see successful job placement as a direct result of our efforts!
Employee Training Institute (ETI)

- On January 22, our Employee Training Institute (ETI) received a two-year contract ($468,551) awarded by the California Employee Training Panel (ETP).
- ETI plans to deliver low-cost, high-value training to our client companies over the next two years.
- This new award goes a long way in demonstrating the panel’s trust in the effectiveness of our programs and is COC’s 12th consecutive two-year award and brings the ETP dollars received to a total of $4,866,000 to support new businesses!

Congratulations to John Milburn and Joe Klocko on receiving this award!
The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) members met in late January to hear from Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who was just elected to the LA County Board of Supervisors (District 3).

Those in attendance were encouraged to hear the Supervisor share several of her priorities for Economic Development in LA County.

While there, LAEDC CEO Bill Allen presented plaques to members celebrating major milestones in their longstanding support for and engagement in the noble mission of the LAEDC.

Joe Klocko received recognition for COC’s long-term partnership and 10 years of support for the LAEDC.
On February 5, I had the privilege of leading a FLEX session entitled “Creating a Courageous Capacity for Change” to approximately 90 staff and faculty members.

Breakout sessions focused on generating input from the campus community on “The Big Ideas”, including the creation of a New Program/Idea Form.

Group activities and discussions focused on:
- Identifying and removing barriers and obstacles.
- Making changes that impact the lives of our students.
Spring 2015 LEAP

Spring 2015 LEAP has begun with 35 participants; including folks from Hart District and the Los Angeles CC District. So far, we have held the following three sessions:

- **Session #1, February 20:** “What’s your Leadership Style?”

- **Session #2, March 6:** “Advocacy: Making the Case for your Department, Program and COC”

- **Session #3, March 20:** “Generating Resources, Creating Effective Partnerships Internally and Externally, and Networking in the Community”
LEAP Solution Team Projects

We had twenty-nine proposals for Solution Team Projects this spring. Those that have been selected are:

- **Summer Bridge**: High-impact practice designed to help students transition to College.
- **COC Innovation Showcase**: Annual showcase of student projects.
- **OER-AA-T//My Canyons OER ID program**: Create a Transfer degree program that is completely OER supported.
- **Project Match**: Adjunct recruitment/outreach program for industry professionals and intern/Master’s graduates.
- **Entrepreneurship Center**: Coordinate efforts with the City, the SCV Economic Development Corporation, the COC Business department and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to provide integrated efforts in support of business start-ups in SCV.
- **Improving Outreach to Underserved Populations**: Learning from current successful COC programs like MESA and Upward Bound, “scale up” to benefit a broader cross section of our community’s underserved students.
Science Expo Research Projects

• On display in the TLC through March 14 are student’s research projects presented at the Science Expo (made possible by students, faculty, staff, administration and support from ASG, TLC and the MESA program).

• Projects were developed from research conducted during fall and winter sessions, and represent five fields of science: geography, math, physics, chemistry and engineering.

• Students presented their research and findings to the public. The public can cast a ballot for their favorite or most innovative project. (one vote per person)

• The winners will receive a cash prize for their hard work (1st place-$500, 2nd-$250, 3rd-$100, 4th-$75 and 5th-$50)
Trip to De Anza College

• On Thursday, February 26, I traveled to De Anza College to talk with President Brian Murphy about their Community and Civic Engagement center and how they work to empower students to become agents of change in their communities and beyond.
• I was also able to discuss their Center with the Director of their Institute, Cynthia Kaufman.
• We are excited to get this project underway at COC!
• Several COC staff members travelled to De Anza on March 20 to further learn from those involved with this effort and understand how they have implemented the guidelines and principles of the AAC&U regarding civic engagement and social responsibility.
• Those who attended were: Jerry Buckley, Patty Robinson, David Andrus, Gina Bogna, James Glapa-Grossklag, and ASG officers Jared Moberg and Christine Colindres.
ACCCCA Conference

• On Friday, Feb 27, Barry and I traveled to Burlingame, CA where we:
• Presented on the topic of the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) in conjunction with the ACCCA conference.
• We teamed up with Ms. Theresa Tena (Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness, CCCCO) and Dr. Matthew Lee (Project Director, IEPI) to make the presentation.
• Made a presentation at the Joint meeting of the CCCT/CEO Boards.
• Met with Van Ton-Quinlivan and Sunny Cooke to discuss the “Doing What Matters” initiative and brainstorm “solutions”.
The Honors Program Steering Committee and the Student Development Office held a Student Leadership Conference on February 27.

The day's events focused on the concept of servant leadership and the importance of serving others, as well as giving back to our communities. Emphasis was placed on the concept of the "public good".

40 students attended, representing honors students, ASG officers and club members.

Students participated in several team-building activities, as well as answered questions from a past version of the U.S. Citizenship Exam.

Speakers included Patty Robinson, Victoria Leonard (COMS), Rebecca Eikey (CHEM), Deems Morrione (POLSCI), and Adam Kaminsky (COMS).

It was a great way to get the ball rolling and attracted many students who want to get involved!

The next Student Leadership Conference is scheduled for April 17.
K-12 Arts Education Outreach - 5th/6th Graders Field Trip to COC

As part of the PTA funded music program we have with our local school districts, several Foster Elementary (Saugus District) 5th and 6th graders took a field trip on March 6 to the PAC to see “Goin’ South” an incredible musical ensemble featuring Foster Elementary teacher John Zeretzke (Mr. Z.) who taught Music History and Flutes Across America classes.

Music Director and soloist with the prestigious Aman Folk Ensemble in Los Angeles for more than 13 years, Mr. Z. earned the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with children and the arts by the Ojai City Council in 2010.

During the assembly, kids learned about music from the south, including Cajun, Creole, Appalachian Mountain tunes, Blue Grass, Jazz and music from Cherokee and Chumash Native Americans.

They also learned about the history of such instruments as the Irish frame drum, jaw saw, stroviol, and dobro.

After the show, Mr. Z. came out to the audience to “high five” the students.

Our thanks to Carmen Domiguez and Linda Candib in the PAC for helping to coordinate such a successful field trip for this community’s youth.
Local Press Visits Culinary Institute

• To mark the first day of classes in the new Institute for Culinary Education on March 23, we invited local media to tour the facility and see students in action.
• Reporters from The Signal, Cougar News, KHTS, SCVTV, and Studio Santa Clarita attended.
• They took some great photos and videos, received a tour from Chef Cindy, and spoke with the first class of students to meet in the building.
• It was an exciting first day – and the cookies they baked were fabulous!!
Student Recognition & Awards
Chemistry Club Award

COC’s Chemistry Club has been selected to receive the American Chemical Society (ACS) Green Chemistry Award for its activities conducted during the 2013-14 academic year.

- There were over 134 reports submitted with 97 recognized as meeting the requirement of 3 or more “green” activities.
- The college and club will be recognized in the following publications of the ACS:
  - Chemical & Engineering News,
  - inChemistry, and
  - The Nexus.
- In addition, the group will be honored at the 249th ACS National Meeting in Denver, CO on March 22, 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Chemistry Club!
Accounting and Finance Club Members Compete

- A team of four students from the COC Accounting and Finance Club competed in the CFA Institute Research Challenge at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles on Feb 20. (Other teams included USC, UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly-SLO, and Claremont Graduate University.)
- The Challenge is sponsored by the Chartered Financial Analyst Society of Los Angeles and is designed to provide university students with hands-on mentoring and intensive training in financial analysis.
- Teams from eleven schools began the Challenge in December with a financial overview meeting at The Walt Disney Company headquarters in Burbank.
- Over the next three months, teams worked with CFA industry professionals to analyze the financial, marketing, operational, and competitive components and prepare a detailed projection of Disney’s future stock price.
- COC was recognized for being the only community college to ever compete in the Challenge in the Southern California region. Congrats to Sobhy Singh, Allison Silver, Christine Colindres, and Lindsey Stoneman and advisor Bob Maxwell.
Grants Update
Support from Citibank Received for SBDC

- Steve Tannehill, COC SBDC, helped to secure a check from Citibank in the amount of $25,000.
- This is yearly support that our SBDC has acquired: the funds are used to pay for training for local small businesses and SBDC clients.
- The grant also helps the SBDC meet the match to secure state funding requested by the federal funding.
- It is outlined to support the SBDC’s goal of “Building Financial Capabilities” for their clients.
- When the grant increased from $10k to $25k in 2014, it allowed us to offer training workshops at both the Valencia and Canyon Country Campuses.
Industry-Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) Grant – Acute Need for Coding/Programming

• This project will develop a five-course certificate that includes Computer Information Systems (CIS), Health Information Technology (HIT), and Health Sciences as a short-term, one-time training.

• Year one (COC working with Saddleback College, San Diego Mesa and Santa Barbara City College) - we will focus on curriculum development, articulation and approval.

• Year two – we will offer courses and hope to see up to 90 students trained between the three colleges.

• Once finished, students will be able to work in medical offices, either in the front office or behind the scenes.

• COC was one of seven community colleges selected to received this IDRC grant.

• Our thanks to Paula Hodge, John Cordova, Theresa Zuzevich, Patty Robinson and Joe Klocko for their help in securing this for COC.
Partnerships in the Making
New Partnership with UCLA Health

• On Tuesday, January 20, I met with three representatives from UCLA Health, including the Director of Marketing, Development & Community Outreach. Jerry Buckley, Murray Wood and Cynthia Dorroh also joined me in this meeting.

• They wanted to learn more about this College of the Canyons and our history in the SCV.

• The conversation was insightful and passionate, and gave us the basis for a long and meaningful professional relationship.

• Both sides recognized there is a lot of work to be done and look forward to the many challenges ahead.

• They expressed an interest in exploring many opportunities with COC, including ways we can collaborate on training, the Women’s Conference, a special speakers’ series, guest experts and lecturers, internships, one-day conferences, wellness programs, developing new curriculum and their involvement in Chancellor’s Circle.

• I will keep you posted as this exciting new partnership blossoms.
SCV PTA and TEACH at COC Working Together

• TEACH students and the SCV PTA partnered together to hold a Reflections Ceremony event in the PAC on February 24.

• The following opportunities were arranged between the TEACH program and the SCV Council PTA organization:
  – TEACH students will have a table at the SCV Council PTA’s annual vendor fair to provide information about the TEACH program.
  – The SCV Council PTA will provide opportunities to TEACH students in the area of Special Education through the partnerships with the Child & Family Center, Gentle Barn, and the local SELPA.
  – Sue Solomon will provide at least two presentations this school year on Family Engagement in schools.
  – COC was invited to become an Allied Partner with the SCV Council PTA, which will provide the College with access and opportunities to further engage parents and community members with their program and activities through meetings and social media sites.

• COC and the PTA share values and goals in many areas including: social growth; education; (including career technical education); the importance of being college bound; and, preparing children and youth to be independent, responsible caring, individuals and global citizens.

• We look forward to continuing the relationship between the College and the PTA for future endeavors, perhaps expanding into other areas, such as advocacy.
ISP Takes Trip to Mexico

• Dr. Jia-Yi Cheng-Levine and Ernesto Ramirez (International Studies & Programs – ISP) visited Mexico City from March 3 to March 11.

• During their visit, in an effort to connect with more universities and attract additional students from these areas to visit and attend COC, Dr. Cheng-Levine and Mr. Ramirez visited and met with:
  ✓ Professors at Universidad Tecnologica de Tiaxcala and Politecnica de Tiaxcala
  ✓ Dr. Salvador E. Venegas-Andraca
  ✓ The Department of Education
  ✓ Representatives from Tecnologica de Monterrey, Universidad Tecmilenio, Tecnologica de Cancun and Tecnologica de la Riviera Maya

• It was a whirlwind trip! New and great collaborative efforts and connections were made that will benefit our students and the ISP in the future.

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Coming Soon
Relay for Life Fundraiser

This year’s Relay for Life will be held on May 16 at Central Park, and our very own Theresa Zuzevich is once again involved in the event. As such, she is organizing a fun fundraising event that you may want to attend!

- The COC Relay for Life team will have a fundraiser at Pinot’s Palette on Tuesday, March 24, from 7-9 pm.
- Join the fun for good food, friends, painting, and fundraising (including raffles)!
- The cost is $35, with $10 for each participant coming back to our Relay team.
- Bring your friends and family!
Performances in PAC/Black Box

COC Presents and many departments on campus have some great performances scheduled for this spring! Coming up:

• Fri, Mar 27, 7:30pm – COC Music ~ Symphonic Jazz
• Sun, April 12, 4:00pm – COC Presents ~ Arlo Guthrie
• Sat, April 18, 8:00pm – COC Presents ~ Bobby McFerrin
Spring is a Busy Time on Campus!

There are many campus and community events to watch for in the next couple of months, including:

- Canyons Hall Ribbon Cutting ~ March 25, 1:00pm (prior to Joint meeting with ASG Officers at 2:30pm)
- “What Nurses Need to Know” ~ March 25, 2-5:00pm, PAC
- Women’s Conference ~ March 28, 8:00am to 3:00pm, UCEN
- “Men, Women, Sex & Violence” ~ March 31, PAC, 4-6:00pm, presentation by Dr. Jackson Katz
- Battle of the Bands ~ May 31, CCC, 5:00pm