THE PACE IS FAST AT COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS!
The Heritage Committee Potluck has been held yearly for 5 years.
The 2013 potluck was the first one to involve students. Select students from the International Students Program (ISP) prepared dishes for sampling that represented the following nations:

- Russia
- Vietnam
- China
- Japan
- Guyana
- Guatemala

Anh Nguyen, ISP Counselor, was instrumental in organizing dish preparations, producing a video documenting the students' dish preparations and recording students' thoughts about the cultural significance of their dishes.

Additional dishes were contributed by COC faculty, classified employees, and administrators. The 2013 potluck, by far, was the most collaborative so far as it involved the cooperation of the Heritage Committee, ISP, Professional Development, and Human Resources.

This semester there will be approximately 150 International Students enrolled representing 42 different countries.
• **Brian Keogle** (COC Alumni of the Year, 2013, Attorney at Law - Poole & Shaffery, COC Foundation Board member) presented “Keeping Up with the Changing Laws... in California” at the Chancellor’s Circle Breakfast Briefing on December 6.

• Held in UCEN 258 on from 7:30am to 10:00am, approximately 40 people attended his interesting and informative presentation.
The annual COC Holiday party was held in the East Gym and everyone had a great time!

The decorations were beautiful, the food was yummy and the entertainment was superb!

The door decorating contest winner was announced – and the Fiscal Services department took first place!

Thanks to the committee for providing everyone with such a festive atmosphere, and to the and students for their outstanding performance!
The college’s two award winning vocal jazz ensembles, *House Blend* and *Just Jazz* performed in three sold out concerts in the University Center on December 13th and 14th.

Guest were treated to wonderful music in a beautifully decorated setting, and enjoyed a traditional holiday wassail with warm spiced cider and delicious gourmet desserts.

The award winning jazz choirs performed on Friday night and the nationally recognized concert choir performed the following Saturday evening.

It was a delightful way to begin our Winter celebrations! The groups focused on swing, pop, bossa nova, be bop and funk.
Our littlest artists were the focus of the exhibit held in the Art Gallery in December through Jan 9.

Their artwork was colorful, beautiful and showed the talents of our future COC cougars in action!
Our commitment to Incident Command Training and Emergency Preparedness continues.

- On December 18, most staff who were on campus attended a lecture and drill on how to respond in the case of a random act of violence with a gun on campus.
- Participants practiced the skills they learned prior to a simulated attack by a campus shooter.
- When the message was received by the ENS system, the participants fled to shelter and prepared to defend themselves.
- Response to the drill was very positive, with participants feeling that they were far better equipped to deal with such an emergency.
- The event was covered by all three local news outlets.
CERTIFIED EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING (CERT)

From January 13-15th, the College’s Incident Command Team completed a three day Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. The training covered:

• Disaster Preparedness,
• Fire Safety
• Disaster Medical
• Search and Rescue, and
• Disaster Psychology

The program was an important component of the College’s overall emergency preparedness and the four instructors from LA County Fire were excellent!

We look forward to additional training and drills with them in the future.

P.S. Our VP of Facilities, Jim Schrage is not really hurt!
2014 IS WELL ON ITS WAY!
GOVERNOR’S BUDGET PROPOSAL
WHAT IT MEANS FOR COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

Governor Brown’s proposed 2014-15 budget is very positive for California Community Colleges (CCCs) and builds on the current year’s commitment to reinvest in higher education. It will help us continue to restore access to higher education following years of sustained cuts that turned away students and reduced services and opportunities for those who remained enrolled.

Governor’s budget proposal for Community Colleges:

• $235.6 Million - Eliminate Deferrals
  – Combine one-time funding of $356.8 in 2013-2014 and $235.6 M in 2014-2015 to eliminate all revenue deferrals

• $155.2 Million - 3% Access/Restoration
  – Restore funding to pre-recession levels
  – Access for: Basic Skills, Remedial Education, Workforce Development/Training, Transfer to 4 Year

• $48.5 Million - .86% COLA

• $200 Million - Student Success – Categorical Funding
  – $100 M to Support Student Success Programs
    ▪ Required 3:1 Match
  – $100 Million to Support Underrepresented Students
    ▪ Based on Student Equity Plans for Local College

• $175 Million - Deferred Maintenance/Instructional Equipment Block Grant
  – 1:1 Match – Scheduled Maintenance – 50% Split
  – 3:1 Match – Instructional Equipment – 50% Split

• $39 Million - Prop 39 Energy Efficiency Projects/Workforce Development

• $2.5 Million Improve Statewide Performance – Underperforming Students
  – To provide local technical assistance to support implementation of effective practices in all districts

• $1.1 Million - Chancellor’s Office Funding
  – To hire 9 new positions to support Statewide performance

• $46/Unit - No Student Fee Increase
Other Budget Proposals:

- **Categorical Flexibility**: would allow 25% reallocation of funds from EOPS, CALWORKS and Basic Skills to other Federal, State or Local programs to meet the needs of Underrepresented Groups identified in Student Equity Plans.

- **RDA Backfill**: the timing of property tax receipts will be offset with backfill:
  - $35.6 million for 2013 – 2014
  - $38.4 million for 2014 – 2015
  - The deficit is projected at .5%

- **Adult Education**: 2015-2016 Funding will be provided to implement plans developed by K-14 Consortia.

- **Innovative Models of Higher Education**: $50 million in one-time funding to:
  - Increase number of Bachelor’s Degrees earned by students
  - Increase number of Bachelor’s Degrees earned in 4 years
  - Ease transfer within the State’s education system

*If the governor’s proposals are approved, they will enable us to help restore the demand for access to higher education in the Santa Clarita Valley.*
ADVOCACY
Eric Harnish and I spent the day in Sacramento January 16th and met with staff in the State Chancellor's Office as well as a few legislators. Some highlights from our meetings include:

✓ Senator Pavley
  • Is authoring legislation to establish an "E" Prize that would award funding to develop workable, scaleable models in apprenticeship/workforce training that brings together high schools, community colleges, and the private sector.
  • Supported our effort to implement an Assessment of Prior Learning (APL) to benefit returning students & veterans, and provides a mechanism whereby experience outside of the traditional classroom environment can allow them to receive credit in the military.
  • Listened to our concerns and challenges associated with the implementation of SB1440 and the articulation of courses between community colleges, CSUs and the Academic Senate.

✓ Senator Knight
  • Will be working on a bill to establish an aerospace zone that will offer tax benefits similar to the film credits.
  • Is interested in how APL can benefit veterans and help them achieve their educational goals.
  • Invited us to be a part of a program Microsoft is exploring to establish training programs to ensure they are cultivating the next generation of technology workers.

✓ Assembly Member Wilk
  – Supported our efforts for veterans and ensuring that “unmet need” includes $ support for business and industry training needs.
  – Is also interested in APL.
January 17th:

• Approximately 250 people were in attendance, as well as representatives of the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO), the Department of Finance, the State Chancellor’s Office, and Assemblyman Wilk and his new Chief of Staff, Mr. Matthew Dobler.

• I was invited to discuss and present the same topic at the Annual ACCCA Conference in San Diego in February, the Spring Northern California CEO Meeting in March, and the statewide CCCT (Trustee) conference in May in Newport Beach.

The presentation focuses on:

• Navigating the complexities educational leaders must comply with while serving the students.

• Examining the possible changes that have the potential to enhance what we can do for students.
Michele Jenkins, Michael Berger, Steve Zimmer, Bruce Fortine, Ryan Joslin our Student Trustee, 2 ASG Officers, along with John Green attended the conference in Sacramento this past weekend.

Annually, the League's Legislative Conference provides a unique opportunity to connect with other advocates and learn the latest news on higher education in California.

- Attendees learn about:
  - New members of legislative committees
  - Legislative proposals affecting colleges and student learning
  - Advocacy strategies for the current legislative

Sunday, the COC group attended a luncheon and various sessions of the conference, splitting up to cover as many of the concurrent sessions as possible.

Monday, they met with Senator Fran Pavley, Assemblyman Steve Fox, Senator Steve Knight, and Assemblymember Scott Wilk.

The Students were very excited to have the opportunity to participate in this trip and discuss various topics with our legislators.
Growing Demand for Access to Higher Education

Between 2008 and 2013, College of the Canyons experienced a 15% decline in state apportionment revenues from $80 million to $68 million and a corresponding decrease in in the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) we were able to serve – from 16,500 to 13,500. The college’s categorical programs were cut $2.5 million as well.

Proposition 30 is providing additional revenue; we have been able to partially restore access to education, we are seeing a surge in enrollments. The thousands of veterans, unemployed workers, and recent high school graduates turned away during the five years of cuts are working hard to make up for lost time and achieve their educational goals. Here is a snapshot of the strong demand we are seeing:

- **Fall 2013 Semester**
  - On the first day of class, we had 6,611 enrollments on the wait list.
  - Our total capacity was 50,493.
  - The number on the waitlist was 13 percent of our total capacity.
  - The waitlists were capped at 10 students, so actual demand may have been greater.

- **Winter 2014 Semester**
  - We expanded the classes available by nearly 200 percent from Winter 2013.
  - Last year, we offered 100 online classes. In 2014 we have nearly 300 classes at both campuses, and online.
  - Of the 300 sections offered, only 12 (4 percent) were canceled due to low enrollment.

- **Spring 2014 Semester**
  - After 5 days of registration in a 5-week registration cycle, we are **36 percent full**.
  - 117 sections have waitlists and there are 635 total waitlisted enrollments.
  - 141 sections are full.
  - We have 16,997 total enrollments, with a capacity for about 51,000.
January 17th, the SCV Chamber held their Annual Installation and Recognition Dinner, and celebrated 90 years of commitment to the Santa Clarita Valley! Thanks to the leadership of COC Foundation Board member Fred Arnold, the SCV Chamber, is the third largest Chamber in the LA County, with almost 1,200 memberships.

At the dinner, the Business of the Year winners were announced in a variety of categories (small, medium, large) and special achievement awards were provided.

The Chamber also recognized the sixteen graduates of the 2013 SCV Leadership Academy, which included five COC staff members:

- Mr. Jon Aasted, Director, Contracts, Procurement and Risk Management Services
- Dr. Jerry Buckley, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Instruction
- Dr. Jia-Yi Cheng-Levine, Chair, English Department
- Ms. Cindy Dorroh, Division Dean, Allied Health & Public Safety
- Ms. Suzanne Finne, Administrator Coordinator, Chancellor’s Office
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
MEASURE M

Acceptance of the Measure M General Obligation Bonds Financial Audit and Performance Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013

• On January 14, 2014 the Measure M Oversight Committee met to review and accept the GO Bond Financial and Performance Audits for 2013.
  – The audits were exemplary without any findings or management comments.
  – The District was found to be compliant with all Proposition 39 requirements.

• Measure M Committee Chairperson, Nick Lentini prepared a letter to the Board of Trustees that confirmed the Oversight Committee’s acceptance of the audit and acknowledged the District’s compliance with all applicable laws and regulations governing GO Bond funds. Nick also attended the January 22nd Board meeting.

• Since 2002 through 2013, audits of Measure M & C, there have been no findings.
• Grade beams have had time to properly cure and backfill is complete.
• The concrete deck on the second floor has been poured and all steel framing has been erected, including the atrium framing.
• The chilled water and fire water lines feeding the site are also complete.
• Measure M Committee took a quick tour after their meeting on January 14.
Thanks to the COC Foundation capital campaign, the District’s family campaign, the bid savings we captured from our previous projects, and Measure M we’ve been able to reserve a majority of the estimated project costs.

The concrete contractor completed the excavation of the footing that will make up the foundation of the building. They have also set the rebar and anchor bolts are in place.

Once the concrete is complete, the future utility lines will be stubbed up through the concrete floors. And we are now seeing steel beams and framing going up!
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
In the last year, the Economic Development Division:

- Trained 4018 Employees
- Was present at 852 Companies
- Counseled 798 Entrepreneurs
- Assisted 12,940 Job Seekers
- Participated in 56 Businesses Startups
- Helped in the Creation of 681 Jobs
- Was instrumental in 209 Jobs Retained
- Contributed to a $24.3M Increase in Sales
- Facilitated the raising of $13.9M in business capital/funding
- Generated $2,292,347 in revenue and (14) grants
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (EDD)

- **EDD:**
  - ✓ A presentation was made to the SCV EDC board on services offered within our EDD. We received many positive comments and great feedback!

- **SBDC:**
  - ✓ We received a $25,000 check from Wells Fargo to serve rural businesses in the Antelope Valley

- **CACT/DSN Mfg (Klocko):**
  - ✓ Jan 8 - Made a presentation to Provisors Group (San Fernando Valley) on our CACT/COC capabilities
  - ✓ Jan 14 - Participated in the SCV Business Journal Roundtable with our Economic Development Corp, the City of SCV and AMS Fulfillment on the topic of businesses and jobs attraction

- **WORKSOURCE:**
  - ✓ The Worksource Center surpassed all goals for the first half of the FY 2013-14
    - Enrolled 78 adults – 104% of annual goal
    - Enrolled 33 dislocated workers – 103% of annual goal
    - Exceeded 2nd quarter goal for placement of dislocated workers (123%)

- **FAST TRACK:**
  - ✓ A new MATT program (Manufacturing Assembler & Test Technician Training) for Manufacturing and Industrial employees will be offered Jan-Feb 2014

- **ETI:**
  - ✓ Partnering with Kern CCD to convene clean energy industries in the Ventura, SCV and AV areas as part of the Prop 39 Clean Energy grant
  - ✓ Working with So Cal Bio Industry Group to be the lead institution on their application for a TAA grant in BioTechnology
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION – ETI PROGRAMS

• Consortium (Open) Classes:
  ✓ Advanced Negotiation Skills Boot Camp - Two Part Series
    Fridays: January 10 & January 17, 2014; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
  ✓ Measuring Techniques
    Tuesdays: January 14 - February 25, 2014; 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm
  ✓ Project Management Essentials
    Tuesdays: January 14 - February 25, 2014; 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
  ✓ Leadership Skills Development
    Tuesdays: January 14 - March 18, 2014; 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm
  ✓ Advanced Leadership Skills Development
    Thursdays: January 16 - March 27, 2014; 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm

• Contract Education/ETP Funded/Grant Programs:
  ✓ RAH Industries (Ron A. Hansen): Welding Training Program—Tim Baber
  ✓ California Corporate College, Jan 22-24, 2014
  ✓ RTF (Responsive Training Fund) 12-332-080 LVN-RN, HMNMH from 11/15/12 – 01/31/14

Programs in Development:
  ✓ Archdiocese Hospitality Training-- Kevin Anthony
  ✓ HSMWorks Class –Phil Murg, January 2014
  ✓ Pharmavite: WorkKeys; Key Train; VESL; Computer Skills
  ✓ Six Sigma Methods and Tools: January 2014
  ✓ Crissair: Electronics, Project Management, GD&T, Leadership (ETP)
A free event to help jump start a Business was held January 22\textsuperscript{nd} in UCEN 258. Prior to the event, over 200 people had pre-registered!

It is common knowledge that marketing has moved to electronic and online. This was a morning of break-out workshops, networking, and resources for businesses.

The hottest online marketing topics and tools were discussed and participants uncovered the tools and resources to help jump start their businesses in 2014!

The fifty-minute workshops featured best practices in:

– Email Marketing
– Social Media
– WordPress
– Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
– Measuring Online Results
– Video and YouTube Marketing
– Google Places
– Microsoft Web Tools
– How to Create and Use Photography Effectively
COMING UP....
In the United States, the third full week of February is referred to as National Engineers Week. The celebration began in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with President George Washington's birthday. President Washington is considered to be the nation's first engineer, notably for his survey work.

In its efforts to expand this celebration to all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines, College of the Canyons' MESA Program will feature MESA STEM Week as part of the Mathematics, Sciences & Engineering Speakers Symposium Series. MESA STEM Week is designed to give all STEM students and the college community an opportunity to meet renowned engineers, scientists, and mathematicians. Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Engage with industry experts as they present various career options in STEM
- Explore potential research areas of interest
- Learn about the struggles of a first generation, underrepresented minority pursuing a STEM degree.

Multiple activities are planned throughout the week, culminating in a field trip to an industry site for qualifying and interested MESA students.
CHINA TRIP
LA County Supervisor Michael Antonovich will be leading a trade mission supported by the American Institute for International Development to visit Hong Kong and Shenzhen, China from April 5-13. The trip is open to all interested parties.

- The focus will be on foreign direct investment attraction from China to Los Angeles.
- The itinerary will include conferences and meetings with Chinese companies in the following industries and areas:
  - New Energy
  - Information Technology
  - Medical and Bio Pharmaceutical
  - Electrical & Electronic Equipment
  - Automotive
  - Transportation & Logistics
  - Digital Media
  - Aerospace
  - Advanced Manufacturing
  - Financial Services

Our Economic Development Division has been involved in the planning of this trip, as well as the SCV Economic Development Corporation. We’ll keep you informed of this exciting opportunity!
• February 6th  6:00 p.m. – Valley Performing Arts Center  
  CSUN Campus  
  Inaugural San Fernando Valley Joint Higher Ed Reception  
  Meet elected officials and discuss issues of critical importance of the San Fernando Valley and how the region is impacted by Higher Education.

• February 8th  1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Art Gallery  
  Artist Reception: Sam Erenberg  
  Sam’s art will be displayed in the Art Gallery starting February 11th through February 27th.

• February 27th  1:00 – 5:00 p.m. – UCEN  
  Workshop for Aerospace Suppliers – training is being held in conjunction with the Port of LA, the SBDC, CITD and the CACT.

• March 1st  6:00 p.m. – Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
  Silver Spur Celebration honoring Remo and Ami Belli

• March 20th  6:00 p.m. – Gym  
  Cougar Pride Big Win - Athletic Fundraiser
Legendary country music singer-songwriter and seven-time Grammy Award-winning artist Willie Nelson will perform live at the Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 5th.

An icon of the genre, Nelson is one of the most recognizable country artists of all time. He began his critically acclaimed career in the late 1950s and reached superstar status with timeless songs such as “To All The Girls I’ve Loved Before,” “On The Road Again,” “Always on My Mind” and “Mamas Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys.”

Tickets will go on sale at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, to all PAC named seat holders and Patrons of the Performing Arts Center headliner-level members. Series subscription ticket holders for the current season will be able to purchase tickets beginning at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31. Public sales will begin at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, with seating expected to sell out quickly.
MORE EVENTS COMING UP IN THE PAC TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS....

Music/Dance/Theater Performances

The Peking Acrobats 2/1/2014
Oliver – ESCAPE Theatre 2/7/2014– 2/9/2014
Kathleen Madigan: Madigan Again 2/14/14
An Acoustic Evening with Lonestar 2/15/14
Happily Ever After – Pushcart Players 2/22/14
Ladysmith Black Mambazo 2/28/14
Glen Miller Orchestra 3/6/14
Peter Pan – Theatreworks 3/8/14
Vive La France – Symphony of the Canyons 3/14/14
Jazz It! – COC Music 3/21/14
Mr. Marmalade – COC Theatre 3/21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30
There Will Be Rest – SCV Master Chorale 3/30/14