



# CUESTA COLLEGE NEWS

+ Foundation Annual Report

FALL 2018





## A Letter From Our Superintendent/President **JILL STEARNS**

Dear Cuesta community,

Thank you for the very warm welcome. It is a joy and privilege to serve as the seventh superintendent/president of Cuesta College and to join you in service to our students and community. Since July, I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn the history of our institution and to build an understanding of what makes Cuesta College such a special place. I am inspired by the creative, engaging, and challenging programs offered and the incredible support provided through the Student Success Center to facilitate completion. The activity and energy of the math lab is so contagious that I regularly walk through, just to observe and be reminded of the importance of our mission.

The impact of the Cuesta College Promise Scholarship that provides two years of fee-free education to San Luis Obispo County high school graduates continues to expand. Recent high school graduates are pursuing associate degrees for transfer and career technical education programs in growing numbers and students report that the local Promise Scholarship was a significant factor in choosing to begin their higher education journey at Cuesta College. The local Promise Scholarship extends to our new educational programs including an associate degree for transfer in plant science, agriculture mechanics courses, and a course in geographic information systems. The growth of our dual enrollment programs in local high schools shortens the timeline to degree completion and decreases the cost of higher education. The dual enrollment programs provide opportunity for students to begin their preparation for university transfer or a career while still in high school. Recently, one student successfully completed her associate's degree prior to high school graduation!

In 2018, Cuesta College celebrated the opening of two new buildings; a stunning, technology-rich, instructional building on the San Luis Obispo Campus and the Campus Center on the North County Campus. Funded by Measure L, these new buildings provide state-of-the-art classrooms, comfortable study spaces, faculty offices, and meeting rooms that support collaboration and community. Current construction projects include the aquatics center and data center on the San Luis Obispo Campus, the Early Childhood Education building on the North County Campus, and there is still more to come! Measure L provides new and newly renovated facilities to advance Cuesta College's values of access, success, and excellence in higher education.

I hope to see you on campus soon. Cuesta College—Build Your Future!

Warm regards,



Jill Stearns, Ph.D.



### A New Leader at the Helm

On July 1st, Dr. Jill Stearns became Cuesta College's seventh Superintendent/President. After a nationwide search, Cuesta College's Board of Trustees selected Dr. Stearns following the retirement of Dr. Gil Stork. Dr. Stearns previously served as president of Modesto Junior College since July of 2012, and at West Hills College as the vice president of educational services, the interim associate dean of student learning outcomes, and director of financial aid. Pictured here is Dr. Stearns and her family.



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Fall 2018

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## Highlighting our **BUSINESS PARTNERS**

Harvey's Honey Huts has been providing portable sanitation services to the Central Coast since 1979. Owners Harvey and Jennifer Smith have been business partners with Cuesta College for almost as long. In the early 1980's, one of their two children attending Cuesta College ran cross country and had asked them to deliver a few portable units for one of his meets. The couple gladly agreed to do so and was approached by then Athletic Director Warren Hansen to purchase advertising in support of the athletics program. Jennifer struck a deal by replying with, "How about hanging our banner on a fence facing the highway, and in return we will give you free toilets year-round?" Thirty-five years later, the sponsorship deal still stands.



Today, Harvey's Honey Huts provides unlimited portable toilet services for all Cuesta College sporting events at no cost to the college. "I can't express to you the gratitude we have for Jennifer and Harvey and their entire family," said Athletic Director Bob Mariucci. "They have been such generous supporters of Cuesta College Athletics for decades—from track and cross country meets, baseball and softball games, to the annual City to the Sea Half Marathon. They are wonderful people and have been such an inspiration to our community."

The Smith's in-kind donations provide an invaluable service to the campus and the wider community, but their impact goes beyond that. "Supporting college athletics supports the entire picture of a college education," Jennifer said. "Some talented high school students may not be able to go to a four-year college yet, and I refer to Cuesta as a springboard to continue their sport and start a solid college education."

[For more information on how to become a Business Partner with Cuesta College, please call the Cuesta College Foundation at \(805\) 546-3279.](#)



# Expanding a PROMISE

In 2013, Cuesta College launched the Cuesta Promise—a scholarship program that would allow any recent graduate of a San Luis Obispo County high school the opportunity to attend the college fee-free their first year. A private donation of \$8 million from the Charles and Leeta Dovica Family Trust funded the scholarship, breaking down financial barriers to higher education for local students. Today, nearly 3,000 San Luis Obispo County students have received the Promise.

But college leaders wanted to do more. In 2016, the effort to fundraise for a second year of the Promise was announced by now retired Superintendent/President Dr. Gil Stork. With a goal to raise almost \$10 million (the necessary cost to sustain a second-year), the bar was set very high. Over the course of two years, private donations of almost \$3 million have been received by the Cuesta College Foundation. Those funds, combined with financial assistance from the State, allowed for the dream to be realized.

In the Spring of 2018, the Promise Scholarship expanded to include a second year of fee-free education.

Year two of the Cuesta Promise includes academic performance measures. To earn a second fee-free year, students must complete more than 50 percent of the units attempted, and earn a grade point average of 2.00 or higher during their first year on the Promise.

This Fall, the first recipients of the expanded Promise stepped onto campus. One such

student is Anna Betts. She is currently looking to complete her general education courses at Cuesta, transfer to UC Santa Cruz, and then pursue a career in economics. We sat down with the college freshman and her mother, Aimee La Rue, to talk about how the Cuesta Promise is impacting their lives.

### Why is the Cuesta Promise a great opportunity for your family?

**AIMEE** I know how exceptional the faculty at Cuesta are, and I know you cannot live in a more beautiful place than the Central Coast of California. Those are great reasons to choose Cuesta for your first years of higher education. But now, because of the two-year Cuesta Promise, a local family can save an average of \$50,000 for those two years. It's remarkable if you think about it. It is absolutely the most sound financial option.

**ANNA** It's true! The biggest reason I chose Cuesta is because the Promise saves an incredible amount of money and allows me to stay close to my family while I complete my general education. All general education courses are the same no matter if you attend a four-year or two-year school. So, why not get them for free?

**AIMEE** And, I couldn't be more thrilled that Anna chose Cuesta over the universities she was accepted to. When we talked about college and her future, I told Anna it was her decision where she wanted to go. I encouraged her to apply to all the schools she was interested in and assured

her that we would visit each she was accepted to and look at the programs and financial aid packages offered. She applied to seven universities as well as Cuesta. When it came time to decide which school she intended to attend, Anna surprised me by choosing Cuesta. She said the fact that Cuesta would save us so much money during her college experience was the deciding factor. I was really proud that she had deeply considered all her options, and Cuesta came out on top.

### Anna, what would you say to high school students debating whether to attend Cuesta on the Promise?

**ANNA** I would say don't think that just because a lot of people are going to a four-year school that you must go, too. When all things add up, community colleges and four-year colleges teach you the exact same skills you need in the first two years. But community colleges are awesome—the instructors are very approachable and class sizes are way smaller than at a university, and I like that. Also, I would say consider all the money you can save taking advantage of the Promise; perhaps your parents will consider buying you a car with some of the savings, haha!

**The Cuesta Promise application for academic year 2019–20 is currently open through August 1, 2019; the priority scholarship application deadline is March 2, 2019. For more information, visit [cuesta.edu/admissionsaid/cuestapromise](http://cuesta.edu/admissionsaid/cuestapromise).**



## PROMISE BY THE NUMBERS



Local High School Grad Attendance Rate

\*2018 data not available



Local students attending Cuesta after graduating attend as Promise students



PASO ROBLES HS	176
ARROYO GRANDE HS	145
ATASCADERO HS	133
MORRO BAY HS	97
SAN LUIS OBISPO HS	91
TEMPLETON HS	73

Biggest High School Classes



At Cuesta College's 29th Annual Scholarship Reception in August, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) presented a check to the Cuesta College Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 to support the second year of the Cuesta College Promise Scholarship. Other major campaign donors include the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust, the Estate of Mary Schwartz, the Estate of Laura Coats, Rick and Jill Stollmeyer, and Dr. Grace Crittenden.



# Cuesta College

# 2018

## in Review



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December

The prestigious Military Friendly School® designation is earned for the 6th year in a row.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony is held to celebrate the new 32,000 square-foot SLO Campus Instructional Building.

Author Ron Suskind discusses his memoir *Life, Animated* at the 2018 Book of the Year event. The Drama Department receives nine national awards from the Kennedy Center for its production of *Man of La Mancha*.



The public enjoys a day of free swim at the college's aquatic center prior to its closure for bond-funded repairs. The inaugural Cougar Welcome Days welcomes hundreds onto the college's campuses to find out what Cuesta has to offer.

For the first time, a Summer Intersession is offered to provide the community with more flexible course options. Cuesta opens a food pantry on the SLO Campus to address student food insecurity.



The college celebrates the new 43,000 square-foot North County Campus Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. A \$1.5M donation from the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust marks the largest gift in college history to the arts programs.

Cuesta College's seventh Superintendent/President Dr. Jill Stearns is sworn in during the Board of Trustees monthly meeting.



College for Kids saw more local youth participation in sports activities this summer than ever before, and expanded to include archery.

The Ceramics Program gets its clay for the semester via the Clay Stomp, where participants mix 6,000 pounds of clay with their feet.



The Annual College Night on the SLO Campus hosts hundreds of high school students and their parents as they meet with dozens of colleges and universities.

A 20th Anniversary Celebration is held on the North County Campus in Paso Robles, which opened its doors in 1998. Discovery Day at Cuesta College is held on the North County Campus, offering the community a chance to see the college's science and technology programs in action.



The college posts signage and gets the message out that it will officially go smoke-free in January 2019.



# BUILD YOUR FUTURE

## Through Cuesta's New Culinary Program

This fall, Cuesta College launched a Culinary Arts Certificate of Specialization, combining academic and lab training with real life experience in the field of culinary arts. Taught in a professional kitchen at the California Conservation Corps in San Luis Obispo, the certificate consists of four courses that can be completed within one semester.

"Numerous opportunities are now available to students interested in culinary—this new set of courses meets the requirements for entry level employment, offer food safety certification, are transferable to the Cal State Universities, provide lifelong learning skills, as well as consumer and industry-applicable skills," said Cuesta College Nutrition Instructor Cherie Moore. "The culinary arts field has a large, growing job market and this certificate provides a career advantage for job seekers in San Luis Obispo County and beyond."

Michele Auriemma is one such job seeker. A zero-waste chemical engineer from Italy, Auriemma was working on a project in

California involving the recycling of food when a memory from his upbringing sparked. "My mother followed the Mediterranean diet when I was young, and the waste from the kitchen was at zero," Auriemma said. "She used everything, everything. And we recycled the leftovers. So, I began thinking, why are we trying to solve the problem of wasted food by recycling it? Why not start at the beginning, and use all the food? Then we would have no waste."

Auriemma moved to Morro Bay and enrolled in Cuesta's Culinary Program. At 60-plus years old, his goal today is to teach others about a zero waste Mediterranean diet lifestyle, while securing employment in the local food industry. He says Cuesta is helping to improve his cooking technique, and allowing him to start a new chapter.

"I wanted to show everyone, and myself, that at my age, in my 60s, I can start again, and start a new life."

### More Course Offerings

Cuesta College is rolling out fresh new offerings in a variety of areas.

- Introduction to Viticulture course (AGPS 250). As part of the college's Agriculture Plant Science Program, this CSU-transferable course introduces viticulture to students via exploring the concepts of grape growing, history, distribution, biology, anatomy, propagation, cultivated varieties, rootstocks, climate, vineyard practices, common diseases and pests.
- Introduction to Geographic Information Systems course (GEOL 225). Cuesta is working to meet the high-demand industry needs for certified Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technicians. The CSU-transferable course introduces the concepts, techniques, and tools of GIS, including data acquisition, management, manipulation, spatial analysis, and cartographic output. The course is the first in a series that will result in a GIS Analysis Certificate, which will officially launch in the Fall of 2019.

The Culinary Arts Program consists of the following four courses: Nutrition 213: Food Safety and Sanitation with ServSafe Certification, Culinary Arts 210: Fundamentals I, Culinary Arts 220: Fundamentals II, and Culinary Arts 125: Baking Science I. There are no course prerequisites for the Culinary Arts Certificate of Specialization, allowing students to easily customize their course sequence to work with their schedules. For more information, call (805) 546-3263.



# Cuesta College ATHLETICS

From the Desk of Athletic Director Bob Mariucci



Dear Cougar Fans,

Over the past few issues of CC News, I have highlighted the successes of our coaches and current student athletes. For this issue, I would like to take the opportunity to spotlight a few of our 2018 stand-out athletes and let you know where they are now. These young men and women have gone on to become very successful university students and have continued to excel in their sport at their respective schools, located all over the country. We are very proud of all our student athlete graduates.



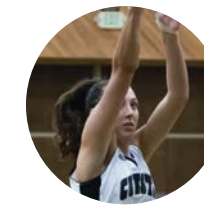
**MIA VISS**  
2018 Warren Hansen Female Scholar Athlete of the Year  
Water Polo & Swimming  
4x Dean's Honor List  
3.96 GPA  
Attending Arizona State University



**NOAH SAUNDERS**  
Two-Time Men's Basketball MVP  
Leading Scorer 17.9 points per game  
Attending Campbell University



**EVAN STORK**  
Track & Field Thrower  
Cuesta Record Holder Hammer 153' 7"  
Attending Sacramento State University



**COURTNEY BARBA**  
2018 Women's Basketball MVP  
Leading Scorer 17.9 points per game  
Attending Eastern Nazarene College



**ANDREW NAVIGATO**  
2018 Male Athlete of the Year  
Baseball  
Western State Conference Player of the Year  
Attending Oklahoma State University



**CHANDLER MANKINS**  
2018 Warren Hansen Male Scholar Athlete of the Year  
Water Polo & Swimming  
4x Dean's Honor List  
3.79 GPA  
Attending University of California, Irvine

### Get Involved!

I want to encourage you to become actively involved in our annual activities. Whether it is supporting our Booster Club, volunteering your time at our home events, encouraging the coaches and athletes, or just coming out to enjoy a game, we'd love to see you show your Cougar spirit. You can call the Athletic Department at (805) 546-3207 to find out how.

Again, thank you for being a part of "our team" and best of luck to all our sports teams and coaches in 2019! Hope to see you at the games.

Bob Mariucci, Director of Athletics





Spring 2018

# COMMENCEMENT

Cuesta College's class of 2018 graduated 946 students and awarded 1,249 degrees at the 53rd annual commencement ceremony on Friday, May 18th.

A total of 485 associate of arts degrees, 247 associate of sciences degrees, and 517 transfer degrees were awarded. The college offers over 30 transfer degrees providing students with a clear pathway into the California State University system in areas like agriculture business, psychology, communication studies, early childhood education, and more.

Of this year's graduating class, 440 students came from local high schools, 155 of which were Promise Scholarship recipients.

The graduates ranged in age from 17 to 69, with degrees given to 373 males and 567 females. Of the graduates, 259 earned honors or high honors by achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, including 15 who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

A total of 29 veterans earned a degree this year, representing the branches of Air Force, Army, Marine, Navy and Coast Guard. The graduating class also included students from three international countries (Australia, Brazil, and Nicaragua) and four states (Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington).



## RN Pinning Ceremony

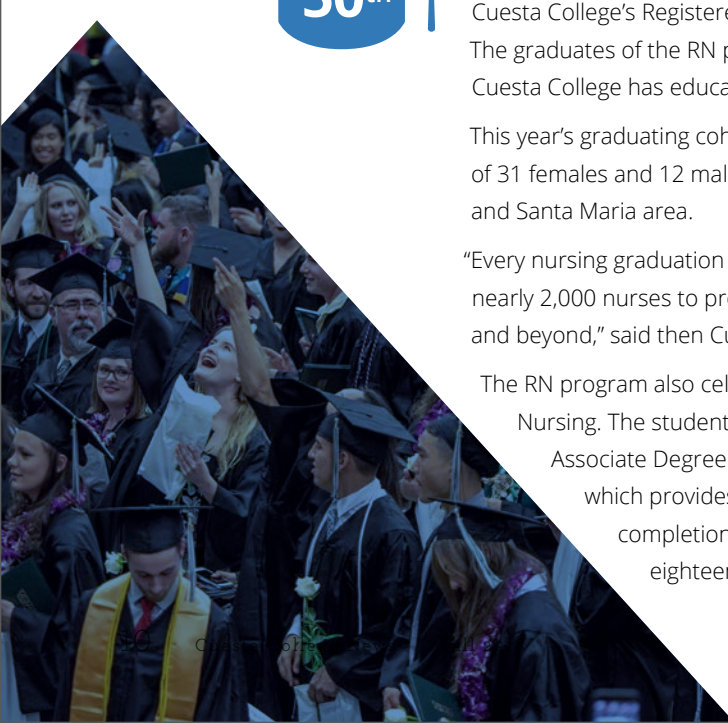
Cuesta College's Registered Nursing (RN) program celebrated its 50th graduating class this year. The graduates of the RN program's first class earned their nursing pins in 1969, and, since then, Cuesta College has educated and graduated more than 1,800 nurses.

This year's graduating cohort included 43 students ranging in age from 21 to 54, and is made up of 31 females and 12 males. Forty of the graduates are from within the San Luis Obispo County and Santa Maria area.

"Every nursing graduation is special, but this one marks a milestone of 50 years of preparing nearly 2,000 nurses to provide top quality health care to the citizens of San Luis Obispo County and beyond," said then Cuesta College Superintendent/President Dr. Gil Stork.

The RN program also celebrated the first cohort of 18 RN students earning a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. The students participated in the Cuesta College and CSU-Monterey Bay Collaborative Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN) pathway, which provides students the opportunity to complete a BSN just 12 months after completion of their Associate Degree. All courses are offered locally. The eighteen students are on target to graduate with a BSN in May 2019.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our students and the community," said Cuesta College Director of Nursing Marcia Scott. "The partnership with CSU-Monterey Bay allows students to remain in the community and work as RN's while pursuing their Bachelor's Degree. This spring, our students completed clinical hours and research projects that benefitted the San Luis Obispo Public and Behavioral Health Departments and the SLO Noor Clinic. In addition, they obtained FEMA and child abuse certifications. These graduates are well on their way to becoming nursing leaders in our local community, as well as becoming potential leaders in state, national, and global health arenas."





# Extraordinary ACHIEVEMENTS

## Faculty & Staff Honorees

Per the tradition of the Fall Opening Day Ceremony, the following faculty and staff were honored for their contributions to the college.



**2018 ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
Gary Rubin,  
Business Education,  
North County  
Cluster Coordinator



**2018 CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
Denise McDonough,  
Division Assistant,  
Mathematics



**2018 MANAGEMENT SENATE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
Jason Hopkins,  
Sergeant, Cuesta  
Police Department



**2018 DR. MARIE E. ROSENWASSER—PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
Brian McAlister,  
Assistant Director,  
Bond Projects



**2018 PETER AND M'MAY DIFFLEY AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE**  
Richard Jackson  
—Performing Arts/  
Drama



**2018 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
Dr. Anthony  
Koeninger  
—History



## CCPRO Awards

The college's Marketing and Communications Department was honored in April with four awards from the statewide Community College Public Relations Organization for their work on the college website, art gallery brochure, CC News magazine, and Community Programs logo redesign.



## SkillsUSA National Awards

At this year's SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skill Conference, Cuesta College Career Technical Education students Milan Tolani (pictured) and Ben Braun were awarded a gold medal in Early Childhood Education and a bronze medal in Information Technology Services.



## Best In Nation

Cuesta College's jazz combo group IATA was named the 2018 Best Community College Small Jazz Combo in the nation by American jazz magazine *DownBeat*. The members of IATA include students Ian Skinner, Adam Nash, Tyler Dukes, and Alex Nash.



## Strong Workforce Stars

Cuesta College's Career Technical Education programs were honored with multiple 2018 Strong Workforce Star recognitions from the State. Among the notable accomplishments: Cuesta's Psychiatric Technician grads see a 245 percent increase in earnings, while Registered Nursing grads enjoy a 136 percent increase in earnings. Both maintain 100 percent job placement rate.



## Rodeo Club Nationals

In June, six members of the Cuesta College Rodeo Club competed at the 2018 College National Finals Rodeo. The team placed 4th in the nation, and student athlete Will Centoni placed first in both Bull Riding and the Men's All-Around competition.

# GROWING WITH GRANTS

Local, state and federal grants brought recognition, prestige and several million dollars in much-needed funding to Cuesta in 2017-18. The funds will assist the college in launching programs, building new career paths and expanding student services to improve success. Here's a quick look at how some of these grants are building the future for students today.



## Nuclear Education & Training Scholarship

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Provides scholarships for students in the Cuesta College Nuclear Power Program and develops a workforce capable of supporting the operation and decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the safe handling of nuclear materials, primarily at Diablo Canyon Power Plant.



## Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
Establishes a GIS Analyst certificate at Cuesta College that meets the high-demand workforce needs for Geographic Information System (GIS) Technicians. GIS expertise is needed in almost every discipline for spatial data management, including engineering, architecture, health, agriculture, and computer information systems.



## Education Futures (Pathways for Future Teachers)

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**  
Supports the college's participation in a statewide effort that creates pathways to a teaching credential for California community college students to address critical teacher shortages.



## DREAM Centers for Undocumented Students

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**  
Establishes Dream Centers that respond to the needs of undocumented students and their families on the San Luis Obispo and North County Campuses.



## Teacher Preparation Pipeline

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**  
Supports the college's participation in a Regional Community of Practice for community colleges developing pathways to a teaching credential for students, especially those that prepare future teachers in Career Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) disciplines.



## Veteran's Resource Center Service Expansion

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**  
Expands on-campus Veterans' Resource Centers that provide support services for students who are current or former members of the Armed Forces of the United States and who are enrolled, or are attempting to enroll, at Cuesta College.



## Cultivating Latino Student Success in Agriculture

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
Strengthens the Cuesta College Agriculture Program by adding courses that meet local workforce needs, providing internships and introducing more students to the field of agriculture through an annual job shadowing day.



## Adult Education & Literacy

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Provides adult education, literacy services, and integrated English literacy-civics education programs throughout San Luis Obispo County.





## Alum: Mario Espinoza from **EOP** to **PhD**

The beginning of Mario Espinoza's journey in education happened almost by chance. After accompanying his mom to the Achievement House thrift house near the Cuesta College SLO campus, he wandered off to explore and found himself at the registration window of the college. Before he knew it, he had signed up for seventeen units.

Life had been difficult for Mario prior to attending Cuesta College. To cope with his dad's cancer diagnosis, he turned to alcoholism and had a run-in with the law. "Going back to college saved my life, because I was just lost before that," he said. "It was a really tough time before and during Cuesta; and I felt like I found my footing when I started developing healthier networks and a positive community."

The community Mario found was mostly in the college's Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) department. Not only did he find support from his peers, but also from the staff. "I had two great counselors, Heidi (Webber) and Janet (Florez), who helped me figure out what I wanted to do," he shared. "They helped me figure out how to navigate the campus and where to find support for my statistics class, as an example. They were always there for me, and it inspired me to give back by trying to help everyone that

came into the EOPS center, forming study groups, and planning potlucks."

Mario graduated with two A.A.s, one in Liberal Arts and another in Social and Behavioral Sciences, from Cuesta College in 2014. A world civilizations class he took, with Dr. Chris Nielsen, helped develop his passion for ethnic studies. When he decided to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Ethnic Studies at Cal Poly, he was well prepared because of his experience at Cuesta. "Cuesta College taught me how to find resources, and how to find community networks that helped me achieve my goals," he said. "I found out through EOPS that there are resources to help students, such as myself, that were low-income and underrepresented transfers. When I got to Cal Poly, I looked for those resources."

Today, he's aiming to bring another type of resource for underrepresented groups in the form of social justice and awareness as he pursues a PhD in Sociology at UCSB with an external fellowship from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Concurrently, he is also teaching in the ethnic studies department at Cal Poly. Having already completed his master's degree, he's in his second-year of the doctorate program and is developing a research project centered around immigration

organizations and how they advocate for immigrant health policies. The program has taken him around the country, attending renowned national conferences in Philadelphia and Washington D.C. "I've been exposed to things that I've only dreamed of finding," he said. "My world has changed through education in ways I didn't even know were possible."

As Mario continues his educational journey, he remains grounded through one of the things most important to him—family. "I think most of all my motivation was rooted in my dad's words to me," he said. "He told me to give it my best and improve on myself. I think that's what ethnic studies does for me. It's a constant improving on what I know about the world and what I can teach people about the world."

**For more information about EOPS, please contact April McGee at (805) 546-3144, or visit [cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/cafe/eops](http://cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/cafe/eops)**

# FACES & PLACES

## Events, Honors and Awards



### 2018 Awards Luncheon

The annual awards luncheon recognized outstanding alumni, supporters and volunteers of the college. The 2018 Honored Alumni Dr. Sarah Ashley, Heidi Harmon, Tom O'Malley and Maria Spaeth (left photo) were recognized for their outstanding achievements since their time as students at Cuesta. Community



members Stan and Janice House, student Kailey Schwabenland and Howard Carroll of the Harold J. Miozzi Trust were recognized for their volunteer work and philanthropy at Cuesta. A video of the event is on Cuesta's YouTube Channel.



### 2018 Legacy Dinner

In May, the Cuesta College Foundation hosted the Dr. Gilbert H. Stork Legacy Dinner in honor of former Superintendent/President Dr. Stork, who retired from the college after 51 years of service. The event raised funds for the Cuesta Promise scholarship and was attended by more than 200 community members, faculty, staff, and supporters.



### What's in a name?

Friends and supporters of Cuesta College attended the annual Presidents' Luncheon in June on the stage of the Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC). Following the event, the college announced a \$1.5 million donation to the CPAC for the Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust and unveiled an image of the building's new name.







CUESTA COLLEGE  
Foundation



## A Message From Our Foundation Board President **ANITA ROBINSON**

### Your Commitment to Cuesta College

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Foundation's volunteers and donors who work tirelessly to help in so many ways, giving back to the College and their community. These individuals are an invaluable asset to Cuesta, as well as fantastic supporters of our students.

As a Board member of the Cuesta College Foundation for the past 15 years, I have had the opportunity to experience the unique bond connecting Cuesta College with the community. It gives me great satisfaction to support the first-rate education Cuesta College offers via private funding for programs and projects that are either not funded or under-funded by the State.

Philanthropy has played a key role in shaping and supporting the mission of Cuesta College, and the stories in this publication honor those who have given so generously.

I hope you will join me in continuing to invest in Cuesta College and our students, ensuring the highest level of access and success in the future.

Anita Robinson  
President, Cuesta College Foundation Board of Directors

### Foundation Mission

The Cuesta College Foundation ensures the greatest educational opportunities for student access and success by:

- ☛ Providing the highest level of support and philanthropic opportunities
- ☛ Serving as a liaison between the college and the community
- ☛ Enhancing the college's visibility and stature
- ☛ Advocating for community colleges
- ☛ Fostering a creative and rewarding environment for students, faculty, staff, and volunteers.

The Cuesta College Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in 1973 for the purpose of providing essential financial support for the College's programs, services, scholarships, and capital campaigns.

## Bob Garrett, Donor, on **GIVING BACK**

### Tell us about yourself and your connection to Cuesta College.

My late wife and I moved to the Central Coast 20 years ago after spending 32 years in Indiana, where Duejean worked as a utility attorney and I was a college professor. Our introduction to Cuesta came when we enrolled in a series of French classes, in hopes of avoiding embarrassment when we traveled abroad. When we discovered the wonderful performing arts programs at Cuesta, we were all in.

### Why did you decide to become a Cuesta College donor?

My career in academia has made me a fan of higher education; in retirement I've published a college text, I have a Visiting Scholar appointment at Cal Poly where I've served on two advisory boards, and I've guest lectured both at Cal Poly and at Cuesta. Everything I've seen at Cuesta tells me that it treasures the mission of enabling students to live richer and more productive lives. A second passion has been the performing arts, which we have supported financially and through my wife's service as president of OperaSLO. I see CPAC as one of the crown jewels

of a culturally rich community. And having spent a career at a small college, I understand the struggles Cuesta faces, and how much it depends on the financial support of those of us who admire what it contributes to the community.

### Your contributions have gone primarily to the area of greatest need and the Harold J. Miossi CPAC—why these beneficiaries?

My support of the Harold J. Miossi CPAC reflects my own interests, and it honors my late wife's love of music; and I contribute to the Area of Greatest Need because I trust the people at Cuesta to continue making good decisions, as they have in the past.

### Why is it important to support community colleges?

I started out at a community college, and I appreciate the role they play in enabling many students to get a college education by completing their first two years at a more affordable institution near their homes. But more importantly, community colleges offer two-year programs that prepare students for the jobs that make our country run, the area of education that other colleges largely neglect.



### What is your hope for the future of Cuesta College?

Cuesta College is doing its job well; Cuesta is on a track of refinement, growth, and development. What I hope is that it will keep on doing what it is doing.

There are various ways to donate to Cuesta College, monetary and otherwise. Call the Cuesta College Foundation at (805) 546-3279 to find out how you can support the college.

Monetary gifts to the Cuesta Fund help to support the college's priority needs and technology upgrades.



A Message From Executive Director of Cuesta College Foundation/Advancement

**SHANNON HILL**

If you have ever been to commencement, you know how meaningful the moment is during the ceremony when the students turn around and thank their faculty. Which is followed by an even more special moment when they turn around and thank their families and friends for their help along the way.

For me, the support shown to the new grads in those moments is even more emotional than seeing them walk across the stage, beaming with pride as they receive their diplomas.

It's with this thought in mind, that I'd like to turn to you and say thank you for your support.

Because, as I was accepting an award for the Cuesta College Foundation in Rancho Mirage in October, I was thinking of you.

At the national Conference for Community College Advancement, Cuesta College was honored as one of only six educational foundations across the country to be recognized for Overall Performance in 2018. A group of judges in Washington D.C. took time to recognize our foundation because of your giving to Cuesta. Sustained growth could not exist without the breadth of support that you continue to give us.

To be honored in this way acknowledges the inspiration our students provide, the work of the faculty and staff, and the true commitment of our community to the cause of educating San Luis Obispo County. Thank you again for creating meaningful moments—on and off the commencement stage!



Shannon Hill  
Executive Director of the Foundation & Advancement



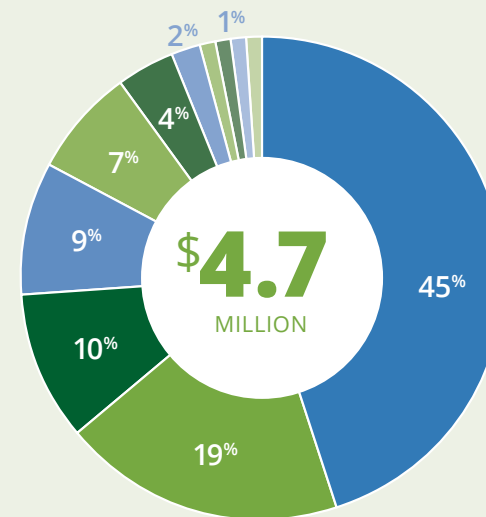
Your Award-Winning Foundation Team

From left: Katie Osman, Shannon Hill, Jennifer Hetherington, Karen Urquhart-Tacket, Erin Warren-Gordon and Rick Camarillo; Jessica Strano (not pictured)



**4.7 million**

dollars raised in 2017-2018



What does the \$4.7M raised support?

- 45% . . . Endowments
- 19% . . . Scholarships
- 10% . . . Arts/Humanities
- 9% . . . Capital Equipment
- 7% . . . Math/Science/Athletics
- 4% . . . Area of Greatest Need
- 2% . . . Community Programs
- 1% . . . Business/CTE
- 1% . . . Library Support
- 1% . . . North County Campus
- 1% . . . Student Services

Foundation FY 2017-2018 in  
**NUMBERS**

**847**

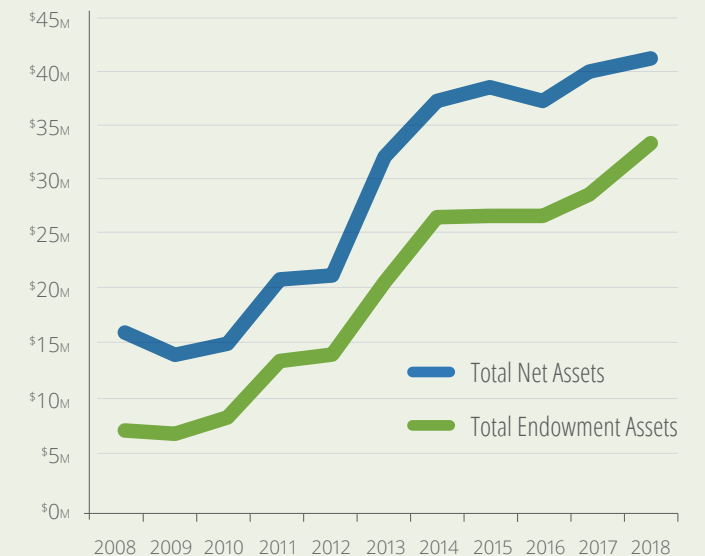
student scholarships and departmental awards provided in the fiscal year 2017-2018

**974k**

dollars given to Cuesta College scholarships and departmental awards

**2.5 million**

dollars given to Cuesta College in the form of programmatic support





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Cuesta College News is published twice a year by Cuesta College Advancement.

Cuesta College, P.O. Box 8106  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106  
(805) 546-3100 | [cuesta.edu](http://cuesta.edu)

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