

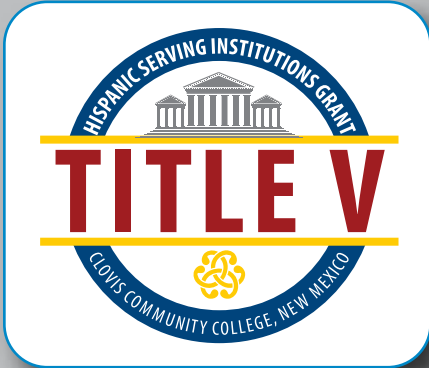


Clovis Community College

FALL 2016

Connections

Start to Finish: Grants Make It Happen





From the Desk of the President

Dear Friends of CCC,

As we wind down another semester and prepare for the frenzy of the holidays, I am reminded of our purpose as educators at Clovis Community College. I include the entire CCC staff family in this designation as “educator” because all of us, whether we instruct students in the classroom, help students take the appropriate classes, assist them in paying for classes, or create a welcoming environment conducive to learning, strive to create opportunities for our students to succeed.



In this season of giving, I want to thank all of the employees at Clovis Community College who give their talent, time, and effort to improve the lives of our students. This issue of CCC Connections features two student support programs, TRIO-Upward Bound and TRIO-Student Support Services. Both are federal programs that enhance student experiences and prepare students to succeed academically and beyond the classroom. Upward Bound provides opportunities to high school students to improve their academic performance and to visit colleges as they prepare to become full-time college students. SSS provides free student support services and cultural opportunities to qualified CCC students. The two programs combined have served over 1600 students.

All of us at CCC are proud of our students’ achievements and excited to watch our graduates excel in the workforce or in a bachelor’s degree program.

I would also like to congratulate the Office of Institutional Advancement for winning three awards at the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations conference recently held in Santa Fe, including a silver award for this publication.

Finally, thank you all for supporting Bond B for Libraries and Bond C for capital improvements. Both bonds passed by over 60% statewide and in Curry County. We also know that the support and commitment of our community is critical to the future of our college. I am deeply grateful to all of our supporters!

Becky Rowley, President



CCC Connections is a semiannual publication produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement. This issue was written by Kate Frantz and designed by Scott Knauer. For questions or comments, please contact Natalie Daggett at 575.769.4115 or natalie.daggett@clovis.edu.

Life Lessons Leading Students Upward

Last year's 2015 – 16 Clovis Community College Upward Bound year was a victorious, yet bittersweet one for outgoing program director, Jamie Moncure, who passed the torch in August with life lessons to share with incoming program director, Lauren Easom.

Upward Bound is a program which provides opportunities for students to improve their pre-college performance in preparation for higher education pursuits, while also exposing them to the college campus environment. High school students, from freshmen to seniors, push themselves to uphold college-level standards throughout the school year with tutoring, enrichment, and classroom lessons relative to real world experience. The CCC program has notably raised students' ACT scores by at least five points, which explains why extended ACT and testing preparation is a large percentage of the curriculum.

"We want to give students the knowledge that they can go to college, the process of how to get to college, and help prepare them to get accepted into college. We need to help them understand that their grade point average throughout their entire high school experience is what gets them to college," explains Moncure.



Former Upward Bound student, Joe Madrid, started the program in June of 2009 and completed in May of 2013. Madrid now works with Upward Bound students as the data specialist and had worked alongside Moncure for just over a year. "Joe was the first student I met here. I've seen him grow as an Upward Bound student and as an employee for the program. He's doing great things," Moncure stated. Currently enrolled as a student at CCC, Madrid's goal now is to earn his associates degree in business.

Madrid describes the program as family. "Being from a low income family and being a first generation college student, I never would have wanted to leave Clovis because it is all I've known. Upward Bound helps students realize that there is a whole world of opportunities outside of our little town that we live in. We take the students to colleges that are close

to home, but we also show them schools that they never would have thought of applying to. After these college visits the students have the opportunity to ask questions about the campus and the programs they offer. It lights a spark in some of them, and they work that much harder to reach their goal and go to the school of their dreams," explains Madrid.

As director of the program, one must devote evenings, weekends, and summers to the students. From enrichment Saturdays, to campus visits, to the final class trip at the end of the summer to Denver, Moncure had diligently constructed a productive past year for the students of Upward Bound.

"The main purpose of the trip is to get them to campus visits further out – and of course, cultural experiences. It's a treat for them since they have been in class for four weeks and volunteered around Clovis. We will visit museums, the Olympic training center, the zoo, and experience whitewater

rafting. It's great to watch them do teambuilding activities because they have to work together no matter what, even if they don't always get along." Moncure also explains that while planning the class trip, she allows students to plan the budget for the trip and weigh the options of affordability.

Moncure has poured herself into Upward Bound to shape and ensure the success of the program. "When I first started this job, I didn't understand what it was until a couple years into it that you make a difference to these students. I've learned a lot. Upward Bound was my Clovis family. Upward Bound has been life lessons."

Incoming director Easom also looks forward to what Upward Bound life lessons she will learn along the way. "As the new project director, I hope to learn new strategies to keep our participants excited about Upward Bound. I plan to share my knowledge of grants and career development with the program participants," says Easom.

A Home Away from Home



Clovis Community College's TRIO-Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded educational opportunity outreach program designed to motivate, retain, graduate, and transfer eligible students.

TRIO is named for the three original federal educational opportunity programs, the Upward Bound Program, Talent Search, and Student Support Services. CCC's TRIO-SSS grant program serves 175 actively enrolled CCC students and offers countless opportunities for those who meet the standards of the program. Students who qualify for TRIO-SSS are either first-generation college students, from low-income homes according to federal guidelines, or disabled and registered with Special Services. Services offered through CCC's TRIO-SSS program include academic advising, monitoring, and support; access to private TRIO-SSS computer lab and secluded study area; use of the loan-out program – laptop, calculator, earphones, and voice recorder; assigned peer mentoring; financial literacy and academic workshops; grant aid; visits to four-year college campuses; and complimentary tickets to CCC's Cultural Arts Series performances.

TRIO is more than a grant-funded program for students. TRIO-SSS is a saving grace for those who lack the resources,

peer support, and motivation to succeed. "TRIO is here to give students the idea, the benefit, and tools to assist them through their classes to successfully graduate and transfer with a great GPA," says TRIO-SSS Academic Services Coordinator, Josué Lugaro. "Most [SSS] students have jobs and families to support, so it is difficult for them to complete their schooling. It is important to give them the knowledge that they can go forward and graduate," adds Lugaro. Students who are determined to complete their education plan are exemplary TRIO students.

"Students gain the understanding that graduation and transferring is a possibility. The career they desire is a possibility. We use a college student inventory that analyzes how each student learns, their study habits, and incorporates career planning. It helps them find a direction," adds Lugaro.



Former TRIO-SSS student Thomas Germain spends some time in the TRIO-SSS student computer lab.

Former TRIO-SSS student Thomas Germain reasons that his success in the program stemmed from the effort and advocacy of the staff not only when he was attending CCC, but for the path he chose to follow after as well. "The staff works hand-in-hand with surrounding universities to help make the transition from CCC to their university much easier.

When we took the campus tour at Texas Tech University (TTU), we as students were actually able to sit down with advisors of our chosen potential major and have our transcripts evaluated to see where we would stand coming

TRIO-SSS Academic Services Counselor Josue Lugaro and TRIO-SSS Project Director Katrina Walley assist a student in selecting classes.



into the next semester because of the relationship the CCC TRIO-SSS staff had developed with the transfer relation staff at TTU," explains Germain.

Currently attending undergraduate school for mechanical engineering at TTU, Germain was named a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He also received the New Mexico AMP SCCORE Internship for electronic engineering technology and computer science.

Though this was the path that Germain thought he was meant for, his interest shifted to a different style of science. In the spring of 2017, he plans to transfer to Eastern New Mexico University to pursue his bachelor's degree in biochemistry. Following graduation, Germain will apply to pharmacy school at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center to pursue a career in medicine. TRIO-SSS prepares students to find themselves and make difficult decisions such as switching majors. Though Germain has found success with engineering, he plans to confidently follow his dreams to lead him to do what he truly loves.

"The mindset the program has given me has prepared me to make what I want out of the profession that I choose. I am thankful to have been involved on both sides of the program – the first semester in the program, I was mentored by someone who had been in my position, and the next semester I became the mentor, where I was able to help students with transitioning into classes that I had already taken. The program molded me into a person who is now able to make decisions based on what is best for me and how those choices can affect the things that I am capable of," says Germain.

TRIO-SSS is available for all qualifying CCC students and is specifically designed to provide students with everything they need to succeed and flourish throughout their academic careers and into their professional careers. The

staff are encouragers, benefactors, and believers. Students find the program beneficial for mind and soul, and often times find their family and a place to call "home."

“ The program molded me into a person who is now able to make decisions based on what is best for me and how those choices can affect the things that I am capable of. ”
- Thomas Germain

"I'm passionate about TRIO because I see students struggle every day when they should be ready. I know all that it takes sometimes is a small push in the right direction. Programs like TRIO were never available to me when I was growing up, and I see that they do benefit students once they grab a hold of it and commit to it. I've worked with students who didn't believe in themselves and didn't have the family support that they needed – and that's where we come in. We are that family for them," says Lugaro.

Harmonious Additions

The primary mission of Clovis Community College is to open doors to new opportunities for students. It is a place for second chances and new beginnings. Two Title V Grants were introduced and implemented at the College in October 2015 and have since focused on course and program enhancements that strengthen the college to better serve the students.

CCC's Title V Cooperative Grant, "Persisting to Success: A Rural Hispanic-Serving Institutional Partnership," is a collaborative effort with Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) to encourage students to enter higher education and progress in one's educational career. "The Cooperative Grant has numerous opportunities to see students' experiences enhanced by benefiting from a revised

freshman seminar class that aligns with ENMU and addresses college and career readiness. It also had a tremendous role in developing multicultural awareness in which faculty and staff can obtain a heightened awareness of each other, their students, and how our backgrounds influence our actions and reactions," explains Nancy Meadows, Title V cooperative grant campus coordinator. "As a teacher, I appreciate the rewards of guiding students toward setting goals and seeing them succeed. Another focus of our grant is to encourage students to enter the education field, complete two years at CCC, and continue their education at ENMU to complete their Bachelor's degree. I am excited about this grant's potential to see individuals enter a career in education that has lifetime rewards," says Meadows.

CCC's Title V Individual Grant, "Accelerating Progress for High-Need Hispanic and Low Income Students," focuses on several initiatives including redesigning developmental education curriculum as adaptive and accelerated, redesigning high risk online and face-to-face courses as interactive and engaged, developing automated student monitoring and intervention, and improving the IT infrastructure and instructional technology through upgrades. "Face-to-face [faculty] are restructuring how they deliver course instruction to improve the learning environment for our students. The classroom technology needs vary according to discipline, but so far, we are seeing requests for interactive monitors, tablets, and laptop kiosks," explains Susan Fulgham, Title V individual grant director. Furthermore, Title

V is managing training for faculty. "The grant is supporting improvements in distance education courses by providing faculty with Quality Matters training. The training will enable faculty to align their content to standards, and the grant provides the resources to take it up a notch," adds Fulgham.



Susan Fulgham (left) and Nancy Meadows

Fulgham and Meadows are both newcomers to their respective grants this year and have great plans for continuing to develop these projects to aid CCC students and faculty to reach their highest potential. Fulgham and Meadows both have higher education backgrounds, affording them knowledge and experience to conduct campus and community events, informational workshops, and professional development. By equipping faculty and staff with awareness and familiarity

of different cultures, learning styles, and the unique needs of individuals, these women provide opportunities for students to thrive in their learning environment.

Because Hispanic students are more at-risk for school incompleteness, it is crucial to not only support these students through facets of the campus, but to collaborate with the community to make career fields more conducive to the students' needs post-graduation. Updates made throughout courses, with the help of updated technology and engaging teaching methods, can be of tremendous assistance for providing all students with the material, service, and support needed to succeed.

The initiatives of these grants create a domino effect for success. Through campus collaboration and technological integration, Title V is converting CCC into a more unified, learning savvy institution through many different phases and fields. "The student body on campus will undoubtedly benefit by these updates and improved services," says Fulgham.

"It is an honor and privilege to have a part in the Cooperative Grant. Our project staff will work hard to be good stewards to carry out the important activities for the goals of student retention and helping faculty and staff obtain desired and identified professional development opportunities," says Meadows.

Alumni Spotlight

Former CCC Nursing Student Gives Back in Extraordinary Way

Courtney Halfmann, Clovis Community College nursing program graduate and registered nurse at the Texas Tech University Medical Center, was recently recognized by The DAISY Foundation for reaching out to help a patient's family.

The DAISY Award is a recognition program which was created in 1999, and honors nurses who kindly reach out to patients and families every day through their work. Created in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, the award represents a "thank you" to nurses and those who work in healthcare. Twice-survivor of Hodgkin's Disease, Patrick Barnes was eventually diagnosed with Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP) and was hospitalized for eight weeks. Because of the outstanding clinical care that Barnes received and the compassion of his nurses, Barnes' wife, Tena, established The DAISY Foundation to honor Patrick's legacy.

Halfmann has been honored with The DAISY Award for her exceptional patient care and humanity. "I am inspired every single day by my patients. I am incredibly blessed to do what I do, and I sincerely believe that my patients do more for me than I could possibly do for them," says Halfmann.

““ For all that life had handed this young lady in the past few days...I knew I had to do something to make this better for her. ””
- Courtney Halfmann

Upon learning of a patient's heartache from a recent home break-in, Halfmann witnessed the distress of her patient whose child's first piggy bank and savings had been stolen in the occurrence. "She quickly told me there was not much money in it at all, but the fact that someone stole something from her son had deeply upset her. For all that life had handed this young lady in the past few days and how gracefully she had handled so much devastation, I knew I had to do something to make this better for her," explains Halfmann. When Halfmann first heard of this news, she visited the hospital's gift shop to purchase a brand new piggy bank for the child. She also collected monetary donations from her fellow nursing staff to refill the piggy bank. In complete awe of Halfmann's gracious gesture, the mother cried in appreciation as she received the gift from her extraordinary nurse. "It is so easy to get caught up in the minor everyday stresses. I find it so important to remember her and how courageously she faced her struggles. She inspired me greatly, and I was so blessed

to be there through such a hard time," says Halfmann.

Not only has Halfmann touched patients with her compassion, but she has left behind a memorable legacy at CCC that will not be forgotten. "Courtney exhibited professionalism even as a student nurse and was kind to everyone. She was young during nursing school, but she was mature and understood what was expected of her," recalls CCC Nursing Director Shawna McGill. "I am proud of her successes as a nurse, and so grateful that we were able to be a part of her becoming the nurse she is today. It makes me happy to say that she graduated from our school and is carrying on such a good reputation," adds McGill.

Knowing that she wanted to attend CCC's nursing program early in her high school career, Courtney was able to take several pre-requisites before graduating. This allowed her to begin nursing school right out of high school and start her career as a registered nurse at the young age of 20 years old.

"Working as a nurse, I can truly say CCC's nursing program prepares their nurses for the real world of nursing. I am fortunate to see and work with so many different nursing students and programs in Lubbock, and I feel that the intense structure of CCC's program in comparison to other programs really prepares nursing students for the real world. Attending CCC for my nursing degree was and still is one of the best decisions I have made. While nursing school is the hardest thing I have ever done, it was beyond worth it, and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat," recalls Halfmann.

Through CCC's nursing program, Halfmann also learned the importance of practicing outstanding health care, of practicing medicine safely, and that kindness and compassion speak volumes to patients and their families.

"There is a saying about treating the patient and not the disease. The medical diagnosis is what brings them to the hospital, but there is so much more to that person and their family than a diagnosis. The hospital is an intimidating and confusing place. It is our job to do everything in our power to make an already scary situation as comfortable as possible," says Halfmann.



Courtney Halfmann is a 2013 graduate of CCC's nursing program.



Clovis Community College

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HEADING OUT ON THE *Open Road!*

“ College literally changes peoples’ lives, and I am front and center for that. I get to meet people from all walks of life, while helping them step foot in the right direction for their future endeavors. Recruiting for CCC has allowed me to help people discover careers they never thought possible.

- Chris Isham
Recruiting Coordinator

