



Clovis Community College

Summer 2017

# Connections



## *Restoration*

featuring CCC PTA Student Kelsi Lamb

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Leadership and Influence



# From the Desk of the President

*Dear Friends of CCC,*

It is hard to believe that summer is here and almost gone! Summer used to seem like a time to catch up, relax a little, and unwind between semesters. Although we have many new and ongoing projects that do not stop for summer, I would like to pause to recognize the accomplishments of our staff and students and the generosity of our community.



The pages of this issue of CCC Connections focus on service, recognition, and dedication. I would especially like to highlight the CCC Foundation Grateful Gears project that involved the collaboration of CCC faculty, staff, and the Foundation. CCC faculty designed the display to recognize the generosity of donors to the Foundation's 1% campaign. The display is now a beautiful addition to the foyer area between the Eula Mae Edwards Museum and Town Hall. Please stop by and check it out if you have not yet seen it.

The Grateful Gears display celebrates the support of community members without whom CCC could not provide the quality of instruction and level of service that our community deserves. All of us at CCC truly appreciate the community involvement and support that continue to make our college strong!



Becky Rowley, *President*



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

# A Grateful Community

The Clovis Community College Foundation has come a long way since its origination in 1997. Last year's premiere of "1% for 100% Scholarships," coinciding with the 25th Anniversary of CCC, brought much engagement and awareness to the Foundation. February of this year marked the celebration of an addition to the successful campaign, the 1% for 100% Scholarship Donor Wall, Grateful Gears, dedication.

Several scholarship recipients and CCC Foundation donors were in attendance, alongside students, faculty, and staff. CCC president Dr. Becky Rowley, Foundation director Natalie Daggett, fundraising committee co-chairs Christina Tatum and Thomas Martin, and Foundation president Mr. Jim Sours addressed attendees and introduced the final creation.

The vision of this wall has been developing since the beginning of the campaign, and is the product of the innovative minds of Natalie Daggett, Christina Tatum, Thomas Martin, CCC art instructor – Carolyn Lindsey, and CCC welding instructor – Sean Poindexter. The collaboration behind the project draws much parallel to the piece itself.

The wall is comprised of several gears – each gear a different size according to donation – customized to represent each donor who has contributed to the "1% for 100% Scholarship" campaign at a \$1,000 or more donation. It symbolizes the relationships within the community that support the educational growth of our students. Serving as a constant reminder that these students are the future of Clovis, it illustrates that great things cannot be done alone. The CCC Foundation and all branches of the community work together towards a common goal, as gears do, to create something bigger and ultimately make the machine work.

"We are excited to honor each donor who gave \$1,000 or more to our campaign, and we are looking forward to adding more gears to the display. It is a fantastic way to honor the generosity of our donors, while simultaneously artistically demonstrating the concept of teamwork," explains Christina Tatum.

Because of the successful participation of donors, the CCC Foundation awarded 96 students a total of \$54,406 in Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Summer 2017 scholarship cycles. Among the scholarship recipients is former CCC employee and Cosmetology student, Bryana Mount. "I have such a passion for this type of work and I love how it makes others feel after I've done their hair and makeup. Without this scholarship I'm not sure that I would be able to pursue this dream of mine," says Mount. Individuals of all ages, demographics, and



backgrounds are given relief of the financial burden that can significantly impact one's ability to afford college.

Though scholarships and awareness of these donations are an essential element to the support of students and alleviating the burden of college affordability, Grateful Gears stands for much more. The Gears are a visual reminder of the success of the 1% for 100% Scholarship campaign. They are a representation of the importance of giving back to community and the importance of paying it forward. "By awarding me the CCC Allied Health General Scholarship Award, the financial burden has been greatly lightened. This allows me to solely focus on learning. Thank you for helping me become that much closer to my goal. Your generosity inspires me to not only donate to more causes, but to volunteer much more in the future," writes radiology technology student, Elizabeth Frenzel.

The Foundation provides more than just opportunities for students, but advancements and growth for the Clovis community. Those who have given, and continue to contribute to the Foundation are supported extensively in return. Now, the generous donations of the community to the campaign are displayed and honored with collective innovation and gratitude.

**C** Clovis Community College  
**FOUNDATION**

To find out more about how you can contribute to the CCC Foundation, please contact Natalie Daggett, Executive Director, at 575.769.4115 or [natalie.daggett@clovis.edu](mailto:natalie.daggett@clovis.edu). Learn more about the Foundation by visiting <http://foundation.clovis.edu>.



# Restoration

## A Love Story

Kelsi Lamb is an optimistic, small town girl with a compassionate heart. She has big dreams and a genuine, kind soul like the heroine of a children's book. Just when you think you know her and where her heart lies – with faith, family and friends, of course – she shares her hope of becoming a Physical Therapist Assistant and helping others.

Born and raised in Portales, New Mexico, Kelsi later moved to Santa Rosa, New Mexico with her family. There, she was raised on a ranch and settled into the quiet lifestyle. As a child, Kelsi enjoyed showing goats and rabbits, as well as competing in the New Mexico High School Rodeos. "My brothers and I had to learn how to work hard and how to work as a team. Because we were homeschooled, we were able to work our school schedule around the times we needed to help our dad on the ranch," Kelsi recalls. Through hard work and observation, Kelsi would discover her true purpose and where her spirit comes to life.

When she was 13 years old, Kelsi watched as her grandmother faced the struggles of physical therapy, and the healing process of a broken hip. Day after day, she witnessed therapists tend to her grandmother. "She was

a very independent woman, so it was very difficult for her to go from living completely alone to needing someone with her to accomplish daily activities. It was so cool to be able to see her progress from barely being able to get out of bed to being able to walk without the therapist's help," says Kelsi. The physical therapist encouraged her, pushed her body and mind, and restored her faith.

The commitment of a great physical therapist assistant characterizes the profession. To carry the trust and reliance of a stranger is a calling that comes to few people. It requires patience, kindness, and stamina. Kelsi is one of the unique individuals called to this occupation.

"Kelsi always has a smile and a genuine care and concern for others. Her achievements will help her to become an excellent PTA. The PTA program is a rigorous course of study. Because Kelsi is an excellent student, I am confident that she will be a very goal directed, hard-working PTA who will be an asset to the physical therapy community as a whole. She will always seek more knowledge to see to it that her patients receive excellent care," says CCC PTA instructor, Robin Broom.

Kelsi is currently in week 5 of CCC's PTA program now and will begin clinical rotations in the fall. "The PTA program is a very intense and accelerated program. I had some trouble at the beginning figuring out the best ways to study and getting accustomed to long days of class. I think the most nerve-racking part for me was getting used to taking practical exams. We are placed in a scenario alone with just our patient – and we don't have any help! We have to perform a treatment session for our patient with whatever parameters our instructors give us. Although this was really scary for me at the beginning, it is so rewarding to pass those exams and realize how much I have learned throughout the program!"

"The biggest inspiration is to see how much our instructors care about physical therapy. They're not teachers first. They're therapists first. They truly care about their patients and want them to succeed," explains Kelsi. However, inspiration doesn't stop with her grandmother's experience and her PTA instructors.

tion:

“ If I can help these individuals physically, then I can help them spiritually.

- Kelsi Lamb

Aside from pursuing her dreams of being a PTA, Kelsi attends church, which is where she met and befriended her greatest inspiration. Shane is a seven-year-old resident of Fort Sumner. Though he has cerebral palsy, he has never allowed his physical difficulties to hold him back. Kelsi describes Shane as a dynamic little boy, and says that she sees Jesus shine through him. He lives for the moment. Shane, alongside many children, motivates Kelsi through his rejection of hardship and difficulty. “The kids always want to get better and try the hardest,” recalls Kelsi. Through a child’s mind, the joy outweighs the gloom.

In the summer of 2016, Kelsi embarked on a medical mission trip to the Republic of Nicaragua. Kelsi, joined by 42 individuals, worked in a small village for three days. The individuals helped villagers with their medical needs, treating thousands of local patients. “My job was to give the villagers dry beans, rice, and a Bible before they left our little makeshift medical clinic,” she says. Kelsi explains that this experience allowed her to “see God work in a way that I had never seen before.”

Through her work, Kelsi strives to give individuals a second chance at life – stronger than the one before. Body, heart, and mind. She explains that by loving people no matter what the situation, they can be healed in more ways than one. “If I can help these individuals physically, then I can help them spiritually,” she says.

“I am planning to take my board exam in January so I can be licensed as a PTA. I hope to work as a traveling PTA for a few years and see what God has for me. I am excited for this experience.”

# “What is a PTA?”

## PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

A physical therapist assistant enjoys much responsibility and independence in their profession. A typical day sees them working in the following areas:



1. *Helping patients build strength*
2. *Educating patients on self-care and safety*
3. *Collecting data on a variety of things such as balance, range of motion, gait analysis, and health & wellness promotion*

What motivates someone to become a PTA? According to the American Physical Therapy Association, the top reasons include:

- *Making a difference by working with patients one-on-one to improve their quality of life*
- *Flexibility of hours and location, allowing professionals more choice in where and when they work*
- *Physical therapists and PTA’s rank highly in career personal satisfaction studies*



### Over 40% Employment Growth



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Statista (2017), physical therapist assistants rank third in the top 15 occupations with the fastest projected employment growth in the United States from 2014 to 2024.

Learn more by visiting [www.Clovis.edu/PTA](http://www.Clovis.edu/PTA)



The Physical Therapist Assistant program at Clovis Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

# FACULTY *Accolades!*

## CCC Educators Awarded for Distinguished Leadership and Influence

Clovis Community College's very own Emilee Nieman and Dr. Caroline Popescu have been recognized as the 2016-2017 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award recipients.

NISOD is a membership organization committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges. Individuals nominated for this award present extraordinary aptitude and expertise in their fields.

With seasoned medical expertise, Dr. Caroline Popescu has been educating young nurses at CCC for 21 of her 22 years total higher education teaching experience. With a master's degree in



nursing, as well as her EdD, Popescu has conquered the world inside of the classroom and clinical rotations.

"Caroline is the 'go to' person for many instructors as she does have a varied amount of nursing experience and is always willing to share that knowledge with her fellow peers. She has been a great support to me when I became the director and continues to do so on a daily basis. She supports the nursing department and has a great dedication to her job and this program. She always wants to give the students her best and she always does," says allied health division chair, Shawna McGill.

From her extended knowledge and experience in the nursing field, to her unfailing support for her students and peers, Dr. Popescu is an exemplar for aspiring nurses. From great mentorship comes great integrity and passion. "My experiences and observations, professionally and personally, with people of high moral and ethical standards have been the greatest influence in my career. I strive to incorporate the same dedication and values as I have admired in others into my own life."

Popescu perseveres and stops at nothing to further her education and experience. She began teaching the Psychology nursing content at CCC six years ago and accompanies the students on their clinical rotations at the New Mexico Behavioral Institute in Las Vegas, NM.

"I feel very humbled and honored to receive this award. At the same time, I think it presents a challenge to continue to achieve the standards this award represents. I have been fortunate to have been provided with numerous educational opportunities during my employment at CCC. I would say to take advantage of both formal and informal learning experiences, know your work matters, and that your influence cannot be measured."

**“ I have been fortunate to have been provided with numerous educational opportunities during my employment at CCC. I would say to take advantage of both formal and informal learning experiences, know your work matters, and that your influence cannot be measured.**

- Dr. Caroline Popescu ””

CCC's 2nd NISOD recipient is Emilee Nieman. Previously a middle and high school teacher, Nieman has been shaping the minds of students as a CCC English instructor for a year and a half. Having served on the College's United Way Campaign committee, as well as the 2016-2017 FACCC secretary, Nieman credits her colleagues with helping her to succeed at CCC.

"I am a better leader and person because I have been influenced by fellow employees who have taught me how I can continually serve students both inside and outside of the classroom," says Nieman of her success as an educator.

As one of the younger faculty members at CCC, Nieman boosts the standards for others and advocates a decorum that is unmatched. Janett Johnson, division chair for Languages, History/English affirms Nieman's professionalism and gumption. "As a member of our department, Emilee strives to improve her professional knowledge and teaching



skills. She constantly works on ways to improve her teaching quality and ability and shares her experiences with the faculty in monthly meetings. She is in constant dialogue and reflection with everyone, and her willingness to collaborate strengthens our department and benefits her students,"

says Johnson. Nieman proves that demonstrating optimism goes a long way, and that there is more depth to being a valuable educator than just communicating information. "On a personal level, Emilee is very kind, polite, and supportive. She respects everyone who she comes into contact with and they leave with a sense of inspiration and appreciation," adds Johnson.

"It is an honor to receive this award. It has inspired me to continue to improve myself as a leader, fellow employee, and instructor. Receiving this award confirms to me that I have found my passion in life, to teach and inspire others to become the best versions of themselves. Many times in life hard work goes unnoticed or without recognition. My advice to others would be to continually strive to find joy in what they do to serve students. In addition, I would encourage others to relish every experience that allows them to help and learn from others. Although the journey may sometimes be difficult, witnessing the continued success of students will be the greatest reward," explains Nieman.

The NISOD Excellence Award presented to the two faculty members signifies that these individuals have been chosen by their peers for their teaching excellence as well as their contributions and achievements. Award recipients serve as marshals for the College's graduation in May and are also eligible to attend the NISOD conference this summer in Austin. The award is highly esteemed and coveted among community and technical college educators.

**“ I am a better leader and person because I have been influenced by fellow employees who have taught me how I can continually serve students both inside and outside of the classroom. ”**

- Emilee Nieman



Created in 1978 with initial grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) is a consortium of community and technical colleges that share a philosophical commitment to support excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership.



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# Connections

Summer 2017



Recipients of scholarships attend the CCC Foundation Grateful Gears reception in February



CCC students and employees show their support for Cannon Air Force personnel after a training accident in which three airmen died last March.

The world-famous Gregory Popovich and his Comedy Pet Theater had families in stitches this spring as a part of CCC's Cultural Arts Series.



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