



CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE COYOTE HOWLER

March 2024

President's Corner

It's been a busy month here at Cerro Coso!

In February we were the Presenting Sponsor of the Indian Wells Valley Economic Outlook Conference. I had the opportunity to share our successes, impact, and goals with leaders in our Ridgecrest community. It was a great feeling to stand in front of a room of people and share all the work that is happening every single day on our campuses. It filled me with great pride to share our growing enrollment numbers, record-breaking 22/23 graduation, expanding early college program, sports complex construction, ever-expanding list of degrees and certificates, and so much more. I also had the opportunity to speak about what's coming next, including our pursuit of Registered Nursing and Cyber Security Bachelor degrees. It's such an exciting time to be a Coyote!

During the conference, we also heard from other businesses and government agencies about the successes and challenges they are facing. One key area of focus, in a panel moderated by our own CTE Director Nicole Griffin, is recruitment and retention. Overall we are doing well at Cerro Coso. However, IWV employers are facing significant difficulties getting people to come to our area and stay here. And that problem is not unique to the Indian Wells Valley, it's a consistent challenge in the rural communities we serve. But it's also one we are well-situated to help fix. By offering expanding opportunities in the communities we serve we are building a better, stronger workforce. Our degree and certificate programs help our students build the skills they need to be successful. We are also proud members of our communities, and pride is infectious. By showing our students that we are happy and engaged with our cities we can build a desire to become a part of that success. Community recruitment and retention are not problems that will be solved overnight. But by sharing our pride in our homes we can have a significant impact.

On the topic of pride, how about our basketball team! The team earned a playoff spot after a dominant regular season, and as of March 8 has won two playoff games. Kudos to the team, coach Chris Dugan, and the entire athletics department.

On a final note, it's almost graduation time! We are just two months away from our 50th Graduation Ceremony. If you haven't already started, it's time to begin preparations for the big day. This is a great opportunity for us to truly shine, so let's make it happen! Thank you everyone, and have a great March!



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The Progress Report – Institutional Research

Cerro Coso's Office of Institutional Research (OIR) is the college's go-to source for student data and research needs. We provide data for planning, program review, enrollment and retention, student equity and achievement, and much more. We are also happy to work with faculty, staff, committees, and departments on ad hoc requests. Recent requests have ranged from survey support for SEAC, contact lists for Library and NextUp, data verification for Financial Aid, and customized research for Athletics. Some of the goals of OIR are to provide actionable data to help the college make data-informed decisions and to communicate the results of our research to appropriate bodies.

This month marks the return of The Progress Report, a way to provide the college's internal and external communities with a regular report on the progress the college is making on its mission and institutional priorities. The first Progress Report since its return will be on the overall results for the Fall 2022 First Time Degree Seeking Student Cohort.

The First-Time Degree-Seeking Student Cohort Dashboard is updated annually by the KCCD Institutional Research Office. It was originally developed as part of the district's entry into the Achieving the Dream network in 2013. This dashboard (originally a report known as Elements

of Student Success) compiles a variety of performance data points, mostly short-term measures that focus on student success in the first two semesters. It also allows the colleges to compare how it is doing in a variety of ways, including the five most recent cohorts for trends.

The Fall 2022 Cohort data was recently made available and here is how Cerro Coso fared overall:

Element	Fall 2022 Cohort Success Rate	1-Year %-Point Change	5-Year %-Point Change
Attempted 12 Units in 1st Term	41.2%	-0.8%	-4.8%
Completed 12 Units in 1st Term	23.1%	+4.7%	+2.9%
Attempted 30 Units in 1st Year	12.0%	+2.2%	+3.8%
Completed 30 Units in 1st Year	6.6%	+2.7%	+3.5%
Persistence: Fall to Spring	61.7%	+11.9%	+1.3%
Persistence: Fall to Fall	41.9%	+6.5%	-0.9%
Completed Both Math & English in 1st Year	19.1%	+3.9%	+1.2%
Successful Course Completion in 1st Year	69.3%	+5.9%	+6.3%
Complete (Award/Transfer within 3 years)	FALL 2020 Cohort: 34.0%	+8.0%	+11.0%

Notice that Cerro Coso is up, both over 1 year and over the past 5 years, in most metrics. Great work, everyone!

The upcoming Progress Report will soon be delivered to your inbox, and we will dive into the First Time Degree Seeking Cohort dashboard, taking a closer look at each of these metrics and identifying some key takeaways.

If you need data, research, or survey support from OIR, [we have a Research Support Form, found here on the OIR webpage](#). Submit a request to initiate your research or data support!

Cerro Coso Proud Sponsors of IWV Economic Outlook Conference

Cerro Coso was proud to be the presenting sponsor of the 2024 Indian Wells Valley Economic Outlook Conference in Ridgecrest.

Our own Dr. Sean Hancock was the opening speaker of the event, which brought together business and government interests from across the region to map out the future of our economy. Dr. Hancock spoke of our successes as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, including growing enrollment, record-breaking 2023

graduation numbers, a huge expansion in Early College, and our success in our Incarcerated Student Education Program.

Dr. Hancock also discussed our ambitious plans for the future, including the addition of a Registered Nursing program, Cyber Security Baccalaureate, and Addiction Counseling Baccalaureate. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Ridgecrest community, and Cerro Coso is proud to be a critical part of our city's growth.



Sports Complex Construction

Construction on our Sports Complex project is looking great! S.C. Anderson Construction is finishing the installation of steel beams on the Field House portion of the project. Right next door, the walls are up on the Player Development building. These portions of the project will include concession stands and bathrooms for fans,

as well as an indoor training facility for our athletes.

The construction team is also well into the process of building new dugouts on our softball diamond and player buildings on the baseball diamond. Concrete has also been laid out on the driveway that will

surround our new parking lot. Next up will be the grandstands and press boxes.

The S.C. Anderson team says construction continues to run on schedule, and we should be ready for a grand opening in early 2025!



California Community Colleges Implement ID.me Partnership

We are pleased to announce that the California Community College (CCC) system has recently established a collaboration with ID.me, a leading provider of identity verification services. This partnership aims to enhance our system's security and streamline the admissions process for all prospective and returning students.

As a result of this collaboration, CCCApply has integrated ID.me's identity verification technology into the admissions application. This integration enables students aged 18 or older to efficiently complete their identity verification using the self-service portal within the application.

[Read additional information regarding this exciting development on our website.](#)



The Coyote Connection

Cerro Coso is happy to announce the launch of The Coyote Connection, a family engagement portal brought to us by CampusESP.

The portal is a new program designed to give families the opportunity to be engaged in their student's college experience. Once they sign up, they have access to a variety of resources, including a campus calendar with important deadlines, campus newsletters, information on financial aid, early college resources, and much more.

The site also features a customizable dashboard so families can easily see the information they need the most. For more information, visit our [Coyote Connection Family Portal](#).

 The screenshot shows the Cerro Coso Family Portal dashboard. At the top left is the Cerro Coso logo with the slogan 'TAKE OWN'. The main content area features a large illustration of a hand holding a magnifying glass over a calendar. Below this are several sections: 'Campus Events' with a button to 'Explore Cerro Coso Events'; 'My Family Groups' with links for current, early college, and prospective students; 'My Communities' with links for various campus locations; and a post titled 'Export The Coyote Connection Into Your Personal Calendar!' with a comment box. On the right side, there is a 'Calendar' section showing dates from March to May with key events like Spring Recess, Easter, and Commencement. Below the calendar are 'Resources' and 'Support' sections with contact information.

Cerro Coso
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TAKE OWN

Campus Events
Get more information about upcoming Cerro Coso Events!
[Explore Cerro Coso Events](#)

My Family Groups

- Families of Current Students >
- Families of Early College Students >
- Families of Prospective Students >

My Communities

- Cerro Coso News >
- Parent and Family News >
- Student Success >
- Paying for Classes >
- Campus Life and Events >
- Dual Enrollment Families >
- Indian Wells Valley Center >
- East Kern Center >
- Eastern Sierra College Center >

Export The Coyote Connection Into Your Personal Calendar!
Posted 1 day ago in Parent and Family News. ☆

We've rolled out a couple of new features that enhance the viewing options and download capabilities for our event calendars.

1. **View calendar events on a new interface.** We've added an "agenda view" interface to show a greater overview of all upcoming events. Access... read full article

Write a comment...

Calendar

- MAR 25 Spring Recess
- MAR 29
- MAR 31 Easter
- MAY 03 ESCC Commencement
- MAY 04 Final Exams
- MAY 10
- MAY 13 Summer Session Begins

Resources

- Academics
- Access Programs
- Campus Life
- Paying for Cerro Coso
- Learning Assistance Center
- Learning Resource Center
- Outreach

Support

Need help? Feel free to contact us by phone or email using the information below.

Phone: (760) 384-6353
Email: outreach@cerrocoso.edu

I'd like to...
★ View Favorite Posts

Men's Basketball Continues Amazing Season

Cerro Coso's Men's Basketball Team has had a stellar season. After a 22-6 regular season, the team earned the 11 seed in the 32CA Men's Basketball SoCal Regionals. After wins against #22 LA Trade-Tech and #6 Citrus, the team earned another home playoff game against San Bernardino Valley. We are so proud of their success this season!



Online Textbook Collection Keeps Growing



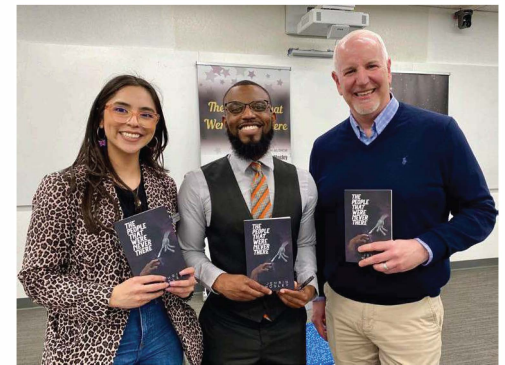
Students needing to access their textbooks now have an extra option, thanks to the library's Online Textbook collection! The Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) model allows the library to digitize textbooks for which there are no available OER or eBook options and house them in an [Online Textbook platform](#). An online textbook functions as a digital analog of a physical textbook. For example, only one student may view it at a time. A robust "waiting room" system helps everyone have equal time with each textbook.

With help from student workers Aria Ayres and Olivia Patin, library staff have been tirelessly scanning and adding reserve textbooks to the new collection since January of 2023. With over 120 textbooks digitized in various subjects so far, students have viewed Online Textbook titles 8,507 times and individual chapters a whopping 16,924 times! This ever-growing collection is helping improve equitable access to a quality education for all.

Umoja Presents Author and Attorney Jehrid Mosley

Author and attorney Jehrid Mosley presented a captivating motivational speech for our students and shared his personal advice for students and staff on the writing process and how to stay connected to one's personal and professional goals. Mr. Mosley shared his latest book, *The People That Were Never There*, a sci-fi novel touching upon the concept of the multiverse. Additionally, he provided us with his perspective on the future of higher education and the workforce as artificial intelligence (AI) enters our lives.

This event was coordinated and facilitated by faculty co-coordinators Nakysa Cummings and Tyrone Ledford.



Coyotes at the Capitol



Professor Jarrod Bowen attended Aviation Day at the State Capitol in Sacramento in February. Aviation Day is an annual event sponsored by the Associate of California Airports. It was a great opportunity to connect with other educational programs, potential sponsors, engage with state legislators, and industry professionals as CTE looks at the feasibility of bringing new programs to Cerro Coso.

Peter Fulks attended the CCCAOE Policy Summit on February 20-21 at the State Capital in Sacramento. Peter is showing support for Senate Bill 1370 to advocate the continued State investment in workforce funding.



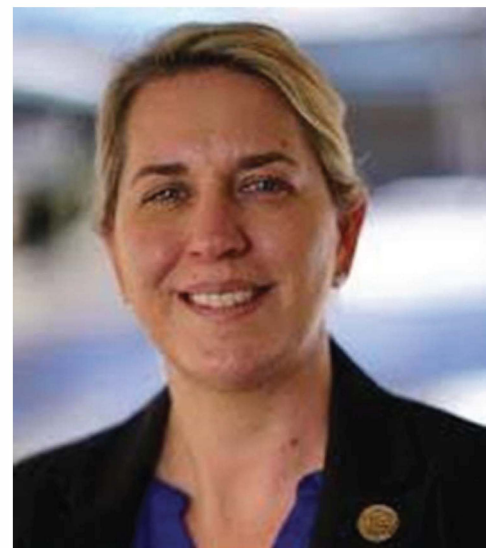
East Kern Director Picked for Greater Tehachapi Economic Development Council

Lisa Stephens, the Director of East Kern campuses, has been selected as a Board of Director for the prestigious Greater Tehachapi Economic Development Council (GTEDC). This appointment will undoubtedly strengthen the college's ties with the City of Tehachapi and foster collaborative efforts with various stakeholders within the Tehachapi community.

Being chosen for this esteemed position amidst stiff competition emphasizes Lisa's outstanding qualifications and dedication to fostering economic growth and prosperity. The GTEDC plays a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life in the Greater Tehachapi Area by attracting, retaining, and supporting businesses. This

council is deeply committed to forging robust partnerships with both private and public entities, aligning with our shared vision of cultivating a vibrant and progressive economic landscape.

This opportunity not only reflects Lisa's exemplary leadership but also showcases Cerro Coso Community College's commitment to community engagement and economic development. We look forward to the positive impact that this partnership will have on our college, the Greater Tehachapi Area, and beyond.



The Art and Obsession of Stitching

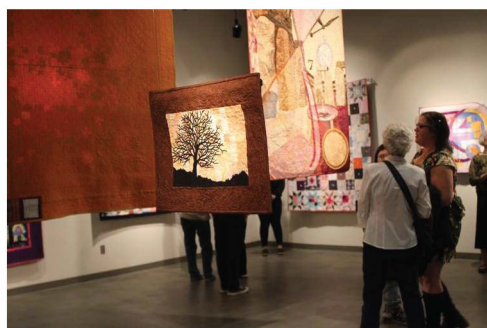
Cerro Coso continues to be a cultural hub for our community with the opening of our latest art exhibit at the Learning Resource Center Gallery.

"The Art and Obsession of Stitching" opened Friday, March 1. The exhibit features more than 20 pieces made by local quilters. They range in style from

traditional quilts to some with more artistic flair. One was even pieced together using fabric left over from making Covid-19 face masks.

Nearly 100 people showed up to the unveiling, including the artists, who were there to answer questions about their individual works.

The exhibit will be on display through April 25th.



Denim & Diamonds

Denim & Diamonds is back! After a five-year hiatus, we're thrilled to announce we'll be hosting the event on April 6, 2024. Tickets are on sale now!

[Purchase Denim & Diamonds tickets.](#)



Denim & Diamonds

50th Anniversary
Gala Dinner
and Dance

April 6th 2024
Save the Date!

Space will be limited.

For more information
please contact the Foundation at
kimberly.metcalf@cerrocoso.edu
or call 760-384-6145

CERRO COSO
50th
1973-2023
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

IMPORTANT DATES

March 25th - 29th: Spring Break

April 6th: Denim & Diamonds

May 6th - 10th: Final Exams

May 10th: Graduation, End of Spring Semester



About this Publication

The Coyote Howler is a publication of Cerro Coso Community College. For more information about the stories in this publication, or to include information in this publication, contact Jeff Lenk, Director of Communications and Community Relations, at 760-384-6260 or email jeffrey.lenk@cerrocoso.edu.