

October 2010

# the Coyote HOWLER



## CERRO COSO RECEIVES \$700,000 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT TO GROW ITS SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY TRAINING PROGRAMS

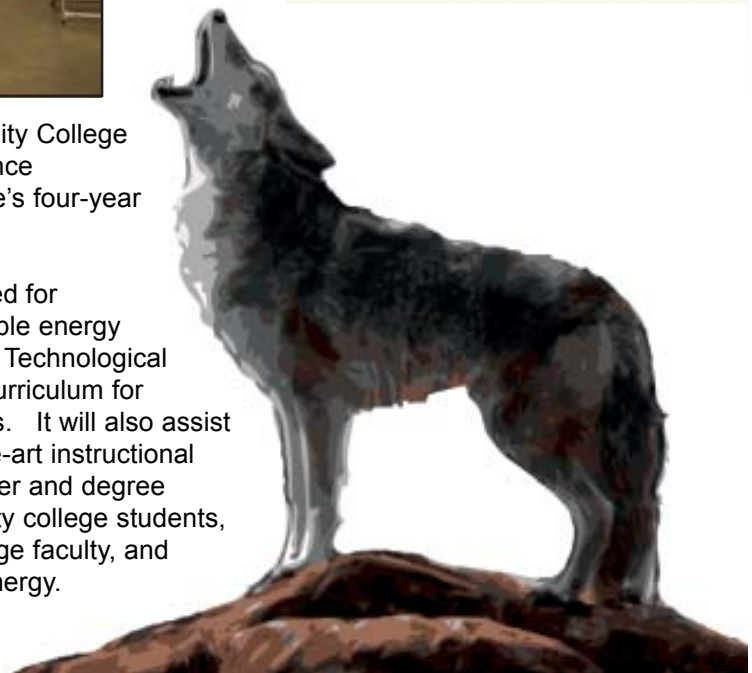
### IN THIS ISSUE

\$700,000 National Science Grant .....	1
\$10,000 In Donations For Engineering .....	2
ASCC Concert .....	3
Librart Open House .....	4
Plans Underway For 5th BBQ & Star Party .....	4
President Board Visits ESCC .....	5
"Tittle Talk" .....	6



Cerro Coso Community College and the Kern Community College District accepted a \$700,000 check for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant award that will fund the College's four-year expansion of solar and wind energy training programs.

Cerro Coso will use the funds to address the strong need for technicians to serve California's wind and solar renewable energy industry. The grant supports the College's Advances in Technological Education (ATE) program and will fund standardizing curriculum for delivery across the state in sync with national standards. It will also assist in equipping the College's teaching lab with state-of-the-art instructional equipment. The goal of the program is to develop career and degree pathways for middle school, high school, and community college students, as well as training and mentoring high school and college faculty, and developing online training modules in wind and solar energy.





“This grant will provide Cerro Coso with the resources we need to aggressively meet our Career and Technical Education goals in renewable energy,” stated Valerie Karnes, Director of Career Technical Education. “It’s an incredible opportunity to meet the increased need for skilled workers in an industry that offers students interesting career options. This program is good for the students, it’s good for the environment, and it’s good for the economy.”

As a result of the grant, Cerro Coso College will partner with the California Regional Consortium for Engineering Advances in Technological Education (CREATE), a multi-county consortium whose goal is to increase renewable energy training programs throughout central and southern California. CREATE programs at Cerro Coso and elsewhere will provide on-ground and online technical career training and build 2+2+2 degree pathways through partnership with local high schools, community colleges, universities and industry partners.



Based in the Santa Clarita Community College District, the consortium will receive a total of \$3,000,000 to increase renewable energy education opportunities at Cerro Coso College and nine other community colleges in collaboration with 30 high schools, four universities, and dozens of industry partners.



Consortium education partners are located in the counties of Kern, Inyo, Tulare, Fresno, Merced, Yolo, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles. Cerro Coso joins Porterville College in the Kern Community College District, as well as College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, Merced College, Oxnard College, Moorpark College, Santa Barbara City College, Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, and Los Angeles Pierce College as participants in CREATE.



Universities in the consortium include three California State Universities—Los Angeles, Fresno and Channel Islands—and University of California, Davis.

“Cerro Coso Community College is committed to providing students with meaningful learning environments that maximize their potentials. Partnering with other educational institutions allows us to share experiences, vision, knowledge, talent, and resources that add exceptional value in developing programs that produce top performers. We are very excited about the impact this project will have on our students, communities, and environment,” concluded Jill Board, Cerro Coso Community College, President.

## COLLEGE ENGINEERING PROGRAM RECEIVES \$10,000 IN DONATIONS FROM LOCAL ENGINEERING COMPANIES



The Cerro Coso Community College Engineering Program is the recipient of a generous donation of \$6,000 from Jacobs Technology and \$4,000 from New Directions Technologies, Inc. (NDTI). Their ongoing support demonstrates their continued commitment to increasing the local applicant pools for engineering positions throughout the IWW. “It is an investment in our community and an investment in our future,” stated Jill Board, Cerro Coso President.

Recognizing local potential a collaborative effort has been made to train and retain highly skilled engineers from within the college’s service area. The college launched the Engineering Program in January of 2009 with an initial

donation of \$20,000 from local industry leaders. Cerro Coso is in the process of articulating an agreement with Cal State University Long Beach in both mechanical and electrical engineering that will provide a local pathway to a Bachelor of Science degree for students enrolled in the college's program. Pending Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) approval, CSU Long Beach plans to begin offering Engineering classes in the fall 2011 at the Lancaster University Center –Distance Learning facility in the Lancaster/ Palmdale area with some lab work offered at the University's state of the art facilities. "It's exciting to be able to work with industry and government leaders and develop a program like this at a time when budgets are non-existent. This would not be possible without their support and is a real testimony to what we can accomplish when we work together," said Board.

Cerro Coso faculty and administration have partnered with Sierra Sands Unified School District administration to identify, educate, and prepare area students to meet current and future workforce needs. Cerro Coso's Engineering Program offers an extension to the many programs Sierra Sands Unified School District has developed to expose local youths to engineering concepts. Sierra Sands began introducing the subject through robotics to elementary school children in After School programs. Currently 60 youths are learning engineering principles via six different modules in the "Gateway to Technology" program at the Middle School. There are plans to increase the number of participants in the near future. Burroughs High School offers courses in Engineering Design, Digital Electronics, Principals of Engineering, and Civil Engineering and Architecture that also lead students into further engineering studies.

"We appreciate the substantial and continued support we have received from these companies and the community as a whole," stated Valerie Karnes, Director of Career Technical Education at the college. "Successful partnerships such as this between higher education and the local community help build the education base and sustain local and state economies," she concluded.

## ASCC HOSTS CONCERT IN THE SCULPTURE GARDEN

A concert in the garden at Cerro Coso paid tribute to America and kicked off the fall semester on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Associated Students of Cerro Coso hosted the event held in the College Sculpture Garden. Local musicians, "Big Band X-Press", played an inspired set of classic swing music, including "Don't Sit under the Apple Tree" & "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" originally performed by the Andrews Sisters, along with performances by Patti and Brian Cosner. The turnout was excellent, with over 100 people gathered to enjoy the show. The audience was comprised of students, community, and faculty including College President, Jill Board. The ASCC topped off the affair, offering refreshments of soft drinks and pizza. The event was a great beginning to the semester and promised great things for the free Concert Series to be held in the Sculpture Garden this fall. The Associated Students will be hosting the Freddy Horn Band on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.



## LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE A BIG SUCCESS



The Cerro Coso Library welcomed more than 120 students, friends, and colleagues from the college and community at their Open House held from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

New Librarian, Julie Cornett, welcomed the attendees and provided an overview of the library, resources, and services available. Library staff members were on hand to demonstrate online research databases, provide guided tours, schedule library orientation class visits, and answer questions.

Of special interest was new Library Technician, Sarah Erwin's, exhibit on Banned Books. Sarah explained that "September 25 – October 2" is Banned Book Week across the nation. Observed since 1982, Banned Book Week is an annual event promoted by the American Library Association that serves to celebrate the freedom to read and to remind Americans not to take this precious freedom for granted. What are some of the most frequently challenged books? Why was a book challenged? What groups led the challenge? All of these issues and more are explored in the Banned Books exhibit.



There were door prizes and other fun activities and participants were encouraged to try and "Stump the Librarian". The event was graced by a wonderful view and colorful sunset over the Indian Wells Valley.

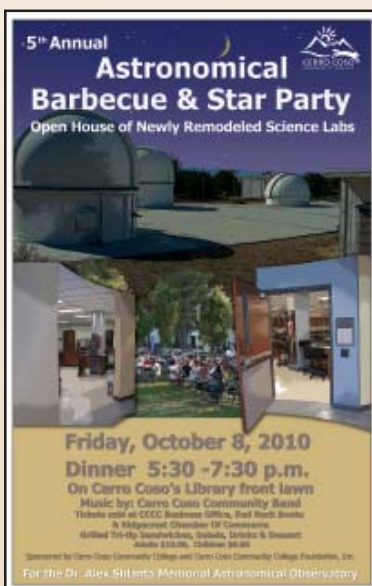
## PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR 5TH ANNUAL ASTRONOMICAL BBQ & STAR PARTY SLATED FOR OCT. 8TH

Cerro Coso Community College and the Cerro Coso Community College Foundation are teaming up to host the Fifth Annual Astronomical Barbecue & Star Party. This year's event will also feature an Open House for the newly remodeled Science Labs at the college.

Mark your calendars for this fun-filled fundraiser to benefit the "Dr. Alex Shlanta Astronomical Observatory" at Cerro Coso.

The event is scheduled for Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 on the College's Library front lawn. A barbecue dinner will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the Star Party will get underway at 7:30 p.m. at the Observatory. The Cerro Coso Community Band will be providing musical entertainment. Presale tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8.00 for children. Tickets are available at Red Rock Books, Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, and the Cerro Coso Business Office.

Star parties have been an important part of the amateur astronomy scene for many years. Thousands of enthusiasts attend these events every year that offer a chance to see planets, seasonal constellations, deep sky objects, and the moon. All are invited to enjoy the wonders of the night sky and tour the newly remodeled Science Labs at the College. The recently completed renovation transformed the science area into a state-of-the-art science complex that greatly enhances and supports instructional use.



## PRESIDENT BOARD VISITS EASTERN SIERRA COLLEGE CENTER

During the week of September 13<sup>th</sup> President Board visited the Eastern Sierra College Centers in Bishop and Mammoth and the community leaders of the service area. Like President Board, the Superintendents of Mono County Office of Education, the Mammoth Unified School District, the Bishop Unified School District, and the Bishop High School Principal are all new hires for the 2010-2011 academic year. The Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Terry McAteer, has the most seniority of them all with this being his second year in his position. This dynamic proved to be exciting and created a conversation focused on possibilities for partnerships that ultimately support helping students be successful at getting into the pipeline to attend Cerro Coso.

A common theme was the overhauling of ROP classes that will articulate students into specific CTE programs offered by Cerro Coso which will lead to local employment, increasing the high school yield rates of students attending Cerro Coso for their first two years supporting transfer to the University, and addressing the English as a Second Language for both students and their parents. It was clear that the K-16 Bridge Program and the articulation efforts, including the most recent 'Champions' workshop sponsored by the District Tech Prep funding that was held at ESCC Mammoth, are making a difference.

On Thursday a brown bag lunch was held with the ESCC Bishop students. Those in attendance had good suggestions about new courses they would like to see offered which led to the discussion regarding 'critical mass of enrollment' and our current use of iTV for that specific purpose. After the brown bag the faculty and staff met with President Board utilizing video-conferencing technology for over two hours. The concerns focused on the impact of the new transfer bill as it relates to the rural college student in respect to the priority admissions to a local CSU, especially due to the current difficult time of getting admitted into already impacted universities.

Thursday evening President Board ate pizza with ESCC Mammoth students at the South Gate Student Apartments (SGSA). She briefly welcomed the students and addressed the need of balancing fun with studies while in college. Students provided input as to what would make their educational experience better. The informal discussion ended with a cadre of 18 students heading out to Lake Mary for an overnight camping/fishing trip organized by the SGSA Resident Assistants. Other meetings that took place during the visit were with Director Gina Jones of the Owens Valley Career Development Center, the Mammoth Mountain's Vice President and Executive Director of Human Services, Mr. Jack Copeland, the Eastern Sierra Foundation, and with the Mammoth Lakes Foundation (MLF) Director, Mr. Evan Russell.

Over the two day visit a consistent message was made to the appropriate audiences which focused on encouraging full participation in the K-16 Bridge Program, taking advantage of the training for teachers on 'KidWind' which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and scheduled to be held at the IWV Campus on October 8<sup>th</sup>, partnering to serve the ESL population in the communities, and increasing the college going rate of each of the high schools.



## CONSTITUTION TOPIC OF ASCC “TITTLE TALK”



Constitution Week was the perfect opportunity to explore the great document that safeguards American liberties and was the topic of the ASCC's first lecture of the semester. Instructor, Jon Tittle, shared his thoughts on the Constitution on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in the college lecture center during college hour. Those in attendance were educated on the problems the delegates at the Constitutional Convention were attempting to solve in the summer of 1787, and learned of their success and failures. Professor Tittle also addressed the concept of the Constitution as a “timeless” versus “living” document. The lecture was informative and well attended.



### OUR CAMPUSES

#### Indian Wells Valley

3000 College Heights Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
(760) 384-6100

#### Kern River Valley

P.O. Box 3204  
5520 Lake Isabella Blvd.  
Lake Isabella, CA 93240  
(760) 379-5501

#### South Kern

95 MSS/DPE  
140 Methusa Avenue  
Bldg 2453  
Edwards AFB, CA 93524  
(661) 258-8644

#### Eastern Sierra College Center Bishop

4090 W. Line Street  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 872-1565

#### Mammoth Lakes

P.O. Box 1865  
101 College Parkway  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
(760) 934-2875

#### CC Online

(760) 934-2796  
(888) 537-6932  
<http://cconline.cerrocoso.edu>

#### Visit Cerro Coso on the web:

[www.cerrocoso.edu](http://www.cerrocoso.edu)



Bakersfield College  
Cerro Coso College  
Porterville College

#### 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 Joann Clark, Director of Public Information, at (760) 384-6230 or email [clarkj@cerrocoso.edu](mailto:clarkj@cerrocoso.edu).

