

the Coyote HOWLER

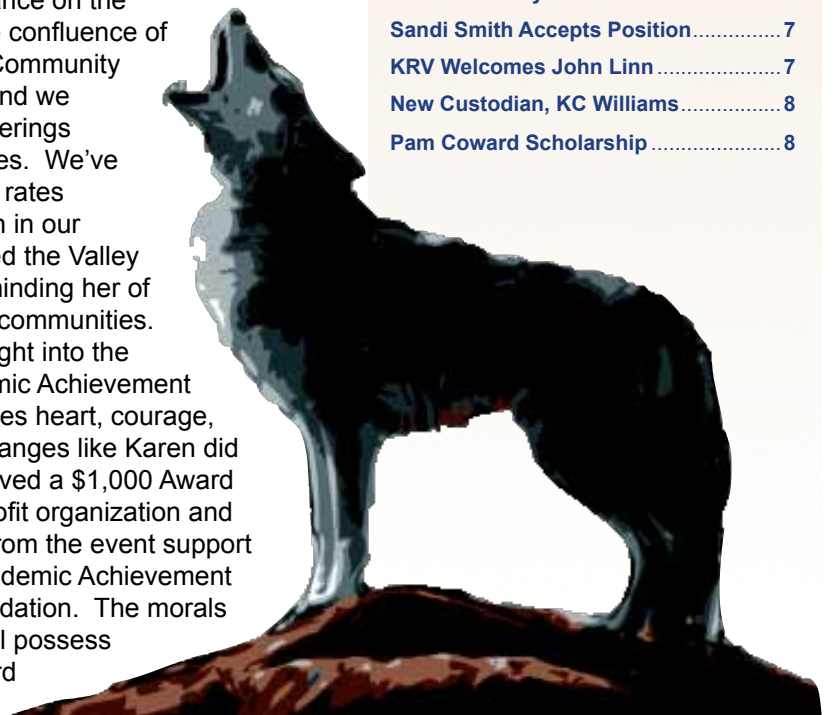


KRV EDUCATION & CULTURAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION



Over 75 supporters of education enjoyed an evening of good food and friendship at the Senior Center in Lake Isabella on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at the Kern River Valley Education and Cultural Foundation's Annual Dinner and Fundraising Celebration. KCCD Chancellor Sandra Serrano, was the keynote

speaker for the event and briefed those in attendance on the Vision, Mission, and Resources of KCCD, and the confluence of national, state, and local conditions of California Community Colleges. "Student success is our primary focus and we continue to strategically evaluate and align our offerings and processes to increase student completion rates. We've been very successful at improving our completion rates even though we have seen a \$50 million reduction in our budget," said Serrano. Chancellor Serrano thanked the Valley communities for inviting her to participate and reminding her of the significance of community colleges in smaller communities. The theme "Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh My!" fit right into the awarding of the 2011 Clayton A. Witherow Academic Achievement Award to Cerro Coso student Karen Priest. "It takes heart, courage, and brains to step out and make significant life changes like Karen did at this point in her life," said Serrano. Karen received a \$1,000 Award in memory of Witherow, the founder of the non-profit organization and former Dean of the KRV campus. Contributions from the event support the KRV Textbook Fund, Clayton A. Witherow Academic Achievement Award, and the KRV Education and Cultural Foundation. The morals and colorful characters of Oz remind us that we all possess the ability to succeed through persistence and hard work and that's what makes dreams come true.



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BREAKFAST BUFFET A TIME TO MIX AND MINGLE



With the hustle and bustle of the new semester upon them, it was time for the Cerro Coso staff to pause for a moment and enjoy some holiday cheer. To thank the staff for their dedication to students throughout the year, Cerro Coso Administrators hosted their Annual Holiday Breakfast Buffet on Thursday, December 15th. It was a time to get together to mix and mingle while enjoying the culinary talents of the Administrators. There were eggs, potatoes, bacon and more, surrounded by desserts galore, all to celebrate those who have made Cerro Coso's progress possible. "One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say 'Thank You' to our staff as we reflect on our achievements over the past year and look forward with anticipation to the new opportunities that await us in the New Year. It is recognition well deserved." – Jill Board, President

CCCC SPECIAL SERVICES CLUB TRUE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON



L-R: Special Services members Janice Raborg, Janelle Johnson, and Bradley Dalrymple, show the many food items donated to help students in need.

The Cerro Coso Special Services Club demonstrated the true spirit of the season throughout the month of December, bringing students and staff together in the spirit of giving. The Group collected non-perishable food items to help fill 12 holiday food baskets for students in need. Countless students and staff members played a very special role in bringing joy into the lives of many this holiday season. Despite the poor economy, loss of jobs, and families suffering, it was good to see so many reach out to help those with needs. It's wonderful to work with a group that is so alive with the spirit of caring and sharing. Thank you for all your kindness and generosity this holiday season!

HOLIDAY PARTY BOOSTS EMPLOYEE SPIRITS



The holidays are a busy time of year, but for the staff of Cerro Coso Community College it is also a time to "bond" in a more relaxed, casual, and fun environment away from work. Cerro Coso's Annual Holiday Party, held on Friday, December 9, 2011 at the MWR Paradise Community Center on base, was a memorable event. The halls were decked and the lights were strung...and all that was needed were the employees to make the holiday bright. Despite the dwindling budget, still-weak economy, and challenges ahead there was much to be celebrated by the staff of the College. The food was fantastic, the venue grand, and there were games and prizes and dancing at hand. "A wonderful time was had by all," says Angela Sellers, Event Coordinator. "It really reinforced the spirit of the holidays for us all." Sincere and heartfelt thanks are extended to the Holiday Party Committee and all who helped to make this year's event a truly memorable experience for those who attended. Thanks for all the hard work in fundraising, planning, and executing another great holiday party!

STUDENTS RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL TUTOR CERTIFICATES

Many Cerro Coso Community College students take advantage of free tutoring provided by a select group of highly recommended and talented tutors. Seven Cerro Coso students earned International Tutor Certificates from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) which is a tutor prerequisite at many colleges and universities. CRLA certification indicates that tutors in the program have received specialized training, maintained high GPA's, and completed 25 hours of successful tutoring (concluded through a formative evaluation process). Additionally, the Kern Community College District requires tutors be enrolled in a minimum of six units throughout the semester and approved by the College Human Resources and Financial Aid Departments. Peer tutors are required to exhibit patience, determination, and willingness to try whatever it takes to help students learn, while encouraging growth and praising progress. The greatest demand for tutors is in English and math courses followed by computer and business courses, biology, chemistry, history and languages. Each semester peer tutors are recognized for their diligence and dedication in helping other students with an appreciation luncheon. New CRLA certificates are awarded at each semester's luncheon. A heartfelt appreciation goes out to all Cerro Coso tutors for their hours of work.



Picture: (l to r) Kameron Hudock, Kristen McKnight, Monette Fowler, Rebecca Wingo, and Melanie "Nina" Pearl. Not Pictured: Kalie Weich, and Charles Evans from the Kern River campus.

NURSING STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pink Ladies Auxiliary of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital awarded three \$750 scholarships to Cerro Coso Community College Vocational Nursing students. The students were evaluated on their potential contribution to the field of medicine, as well as intellectual capacity, skills in the medical field, professional attitudes, leadership qualities, and ability to work with others. The students who received the scholarships are Michelle Korenski, Ashley Heath, and Sher Davis.



Pictured: Cheryl Gates, Director of Nursing at Cerro Coso; scholarship recipients: Michelle Korenski, Ashley Heath, and Sher Davis; Barbara Martin, Pink Ladies Auxiliary Chairperson; and Bobbi Rice, Pink Lady Auxiliary First Vice President.

KRV CAMPUS JOINS EFFORTS TO FEED THE HUNGRY

A drive past a potato field following a commercial harvest reminded Cerro Coso South Kern Director Erie Johnson of an article he read in The Rotarian magazine about gleaning groups harvesting food to help feed the hungry. Johnson, who also serves as president of the Rotary Club of Kern River Valley, saw an opportunity to reach out into the community and glean leftover potatoes to help local food banks. "Our food banks are hard pressed to feed the valley's hungry, yet thousands of potatoes are left behind to rot, because they are deemed too small for market," said Johnson. At a meeting of the Kern River Valley Garden Group, Johnson met Kathleen Creighton Fuschs, who mentioned her brother Dale was about to start harvesting his crop of potatoes. Between Erie, Kathleen, and Dale a plan was put in motion to organize a variety of groups including the Rotary Club of KRV, KRV Garden Club, and Associated Students of Cerro Coso to pick up potatoes that would otherwise be left to waste for shelters and food pantries in the Kern River Valley area. Over 170 volunteers joined in the efforts and harvested more than 3,000 lbs. of potatoes and distributed 1,500 lbs. of carrots donated by Bolthouse Farms in ten gleaning sessions. Potatoes went to food banks, families, friends, relatives, shut-ins, and some to those who gleaned them.



DEEMS MORRIONE HAS LEFT THE BUILDING



After 12 years at Cerro Coso Community College, Graphic Designer, Deems Morrione entered into retirement in December. Since 1999 Deems has provided Cerro Coso with exceptional, dependable, friendly service and fast turnarounds of the highest quality. When the digital revolution changed the industry, he traded light tables and messy plate presses for computers, digital equipment, and high tech software. He adapted well to the digital revolution and was a master craftsman at taking ideas and creating quality marketing materials. Deems developed good concepts and was capable of putting things together at the last minute. He kept the college's equipment, print shop, and graphics department running like a basketful of purring kittens. Always professional, Deems' mechanical abilities saved the college thousands of dollars in repair expenses over the years. He was a vital part of a behind-the-scenes operation that developed and produced most of the college's brochures, catalogs, class schedules, event flyers and posters, and thousands of other publications. About the only thing he didn't print was money. When Deems left for lunch or was out for the day he displayed a sign in his work area that said "Deems has left the building". Deems has now "left" the college for retirement, and his calm demeanor and sense of humor will be missed.

CERRO COSO SAYS GOODBYE TO LORI OLIVERA



Cerro Coso Community College and the ESCC campus bids farewell to staff member Lori Olivera. After 15 years of service to Cerro Coso, Olivera retired to join her husband in Garnerville, Nevada. During her time at the College, Lori transitioned from a full-time student worker to a full-time classified position first in the ESCC's Counseling Center, then the Dean's Office, and finally, as a core member of CC-Online. Lori's position as Program Manager for CC-Online was a brand new position. In the development of the online program things moved very quickly and no two days were alike. It was much like working at a start-up company—exciting, challenging, new, and often very stressful. There aren't many that are capable of handling that type of ever-changing work environment, but Lori thrived in it. Her work in the position was critical to the development and operation of the CC Online Program. The League of Innovation gave the program an Innovation of the Year award largely due to Lori's handling of the many behind-the-scenes tasks. Lori was the first non-IWV recipient of the Academic Senate's "Classified Staff of the Year" award. She also taught online certificate courses to CC-online instructors. Lori holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cal State University Northridge and a Masters in Business Administration from Chico State University. We will miss you Lori, thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

MEET NEW WEB CONTENT EDITOR, SYLVIA SOTOMAYOR

Always fascinated by language, Cerro Coso's new Web Content Editor, Sylvia Sotomayor, has quite a story to tell. Sylvia's father, originally from Nicaragua, spent 22 years in the U.S. Air Force. While in the service he met Sylvia's mother, a German national. The two were married and Sylvia was born in France. At the time Sylvia's own nationality was questioned because her father was not fully naturalized in the United States, and eventually it was declared "German". In 1986 while in college, Sylvia was sworn in as a United States citizen. Sylvia's father's military career allowed them to explore many countries, and she spent part of her time growing up in Victorville, California and part in Berlin, Germany. Sylvia's love of reading and exposure to foreign languages inspired her to develop her own non-human language. Her strategy was to take a language universal and violate it. So she created a language for fun consisting of only nouns and particles and no verbs. Her alien language, Kēlen, received the Smiley Award at the 2009 Language Creation Conference at Brown University. When Sylvia discovered the Internet in 1996, Web design became another one of her passions. Web design and content management is a fast changing field, so Sylvia has had to teach herself programming languages. Her technical abilities and love of a challenge are a good fit for her new position at Cerro Coso Community College. Sylvia holds a Bachelors Degree in Linguistics from U.C. Berkeley and a Masters Degree in Information Systems from Drexel University. WELCOME Sylvia!



BECKY ROCK NEW ADDITION TO BUSINESS OFFICE

What is the definition of an accountant? Someone who solves a problem you did not know you had in a way you don't understand. New Cerro Coso Community College staff member, Rebecca (Becky) Rock, has the expertise to figure it out. Becky recently joined the staff as an Accounting Technician II in the Business Office. Born and raised in Ridgecrest, Becky is thrilled to be working at the college. Previously she spent 15 years working as an accountant at AltaOne Federal Credit Union. Both Becky and her husband, David, are 1997 graduates of Cerro Coso. They have one son, Jacob, who is a junior at Burroughs High School and they are hoping he will attend Cerro Coso when he graduates. Not the adventurous type, Becky describes herself as "boring". That however, is not true. Her first day on the job, Becky wore a t-shirt covered in fake blood, cereal boxes, and plastic knives. Why you ask? She was getting into the spirit of Halloween dressed as a "cereal killer". This gives new meaning to a new job being scary. Her smile, sense of humor, and caring attitude make her a perfect addition to the Business Office. Becky loves raising her son in Ridgecrest and appreciates the small town, safe environment. In her spare time she enjoys reading, hiking, and scrapbooking. WELCOME to the Cerro Coso staff Becky!



DEBORAH GREGORY HAS AN EYE FOR DESIGN



Deborah (Debbie) Gregory combines creativity and technical skills to develop eye catching designs as Cerro Coso's new Graphic Designer. Born in Long Island, New York, Debbie got her interest in the printing trade in high school. Following her high school graduation, Debbie's father moved the family to California. "At first we thought it was cool, we were going to California. We came in at night and it was beautiful," she said. As the story often goes, they didn't find it quite so appealing when they woke up the next morning in the desert. "We were only going to stay a few years," she continued. Three decades later she finds herself still in the desert and loving it. In 1986, Debbie began her career in graphics and print working at Continental Graphics. When the business closed she put her winning attitude to work and opened her own business "Spectrum Graphics & Printing," proving there is more to commercial printing than ink and paper. In February of 2011 the business merged with another local business. Her eye for design and commitment to personal service are a winning combination for Cerro Coso. Debbie has two sons: Christopher in the U.S. Navy stationed in Norfolk, Virginia; and Erik who graduated from high school this fall and will start classes at Cerro Coso this spring. She is an avid Yankees fan and enjoys photography, hiking, and watching movies in her free time. Debbie replaces Deems Morrione, who retired in December. WELCOME Debbie!

CERRO COSO WELCOMES PC TECHNICIAN, PERRY NEWTON



Cerro Coso Community College would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest PC Technician, Perry Newton. A native of Colorado, Perry's can do attitude is evident in his varied background and extensive travels. Perry served in the U.S. Navy for ten years as an AQ-1 Aviation Fire Control Technician, five of those years he spent on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ranger (CV-61) as a RADAR Avionics Technician based at NAS Miramar in San Diego, California. Perry has over 40 years of diverse travel and industry experience, including radar, electronics, real estate, trucking, airborne weapons systems, ship construction, nuclear electrical power generating industrial plants, oil and gas exploration, software manufacturers, hardware manufacturers, public adult education, state government agencies, and newspaper publishing—all entailing a vast array of technologies. His travels have taken him all over the world. Perry has worked for major corporations including: The Denver Post, Mobil Oil, Performance Contracting Group, Hughes Christiansen, Dell, and Microsoft Corporation, along with a variety of other companies. Perry is enjoying his new job at Cerro Coso and says "it's quite literally the best job I have ever had. I love the people, the work, and the location." A Civil War and Revolutionary War buff, Perry has personally visited all of the major battle sites around the nation. He enjoys riding motorcycles and once spent three months traveling 14,000 miles through the U.S. and Canada on his Harley. Perry holds an A.S. Degree in Business Administration and an Occupational Certificate in Real Estate from Victor Valley College, and a B.S. Degree in Computer Information Science from Coleman University.

SMITH-KING ACCEPTS POSITION IN SPECIAL SERVICES

The Special Services Department at Cerro Coso is pleased to announce the addition of Sandi Smith-King to the Department. Sandi, in her new role as a Special Services Assistant is not new to the college. She originally began working as a student worker at the College Child Development Center and then moved to the Admissions and Records Department. In July of 2007 she was hired as an A&R Assistant. Drastic budget cuts in 2010 resulted in Sandi's position being eliminated. She returned that November to fill a temporary position vacated by Resa Hess in the Human Resource Department. Sandi's vast experience and customer service skills are a great fit for the Special Services Department. She is a 2008 graduate of Cerro Coso Community College and her goal is to be a Counselor at the College. Sandi has earned a Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science from Bellevue University and is currently working on her Master's in Education Counseling at the University of La Verne. The mother of two little girls Oliva (6), and Averi (2), Sandi also has a 2 ½ year old step-son, Mark. In their free time, Sandi and husband, Mike, enjoy power wheeling in the desert with their children. CONGRATULATIONS Sandi.



KRV WELCOMES LINN TO THE STAFF

Working in the oil fields most of his life, new Teaching Assistant John Linn never believed a higher education was possible. John spent most of his life growing up in Taft, California and dropped out of high school at a young age to raise a family. When he returned to the Kern River Valley in 2003 to care for his mother he only intended to take one class to learn how to use computers. What he found at Cerro Coso was a variety of resources available to help him succeed as a college student. Originally wanting to be a counselor at the Camp Owen Juvenile Facility, John set out to earn an associate's degree from Cerro Coso. Internships at both Camp Owen and Wallace Elementary School ignited a fire in John to pursue a master's degree in social work. He served as a computer lab aid for several years prior to accepting the position of Teaching Assistant for ITV. Linn is a 2010 graduate of the college and continues to take classes to complete transfer requirements. His future goal is to be a social worker and he plans to transfer to Cal State Bakersfield to further his education. John has three grown children and enjoys all activities related to the outdoors. WELCOME John.



DUST BUNNIES BEWARE OF WILLIAMS

Not always the most glamorous positions on campus, but vital to the overall educational experience, are the jobs of keeping college facilities clean. Without our custodial staff we would all work amid drifts of dust bunnies, spills, overflowing trash cans, and un-buffed halls. Kiera (KC) Williams is the newest addition to Cerro Coso's custodial staff, those unsung heroes who keep our facilities pristine. KC's primary area of responsibility includes the Learning Resource Center and East Wing. Prior to joining the College staff, KC worked for Alltitiq providing janitorial services on base for five years. No stranger to cleaning this energetic single mother of two children, Connor (7) and Daisy (4), loves spending time with family and friends. Her hardworking and caring dispositions are a welcome addition to the team. Born and raised in Ridgecrest, KC is a diehard Dallas Cowboy's fan. Eagles and Giants fans beware. Cerro Coso WELCOMES KC to the staff.



SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF PAM COWARD

Family and coworkers of former Cerro Coso employee, Pamela Ann Coward, have established a scholarship in her honor. Pam was a Human Resources Assistant at the college for 10 years and lost her courageous fight with brain cancer in October of 2010. Well known for her strong sense of integrity and selflessness, Pam was committed and passionate about her work. She will long be remembered most lovingly for her compassion, strength, and devotion to her husband (Bill), family, friends, animals, and coworkers. The CCCC Foundation is accepting donations to the Pamela Coward Memorial Scholarship fund. The scholarship is open to all full-time students at any Cerro Coso campus who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have been accepted to a 4-Year Institution of Higher Education. No major need be declared. Award amount will be based on amount donated throughout the year. The CCCC Foundation is committed to helping students succeed in college through its scholarship program. "It was a difficult year when we lost Pam," stated Cheryl Gates, CCCC Foundation President. "This scholarship will be awarded annually to an outgoing Cerro Coso student who exhibits the leadership, initiative, and passion for education for which Pam was known."

Foundation Features



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 Natalie Dorrell, Director of Public Information, at 760.384.6230 or email ndorrell@cerrocoso.edu.



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