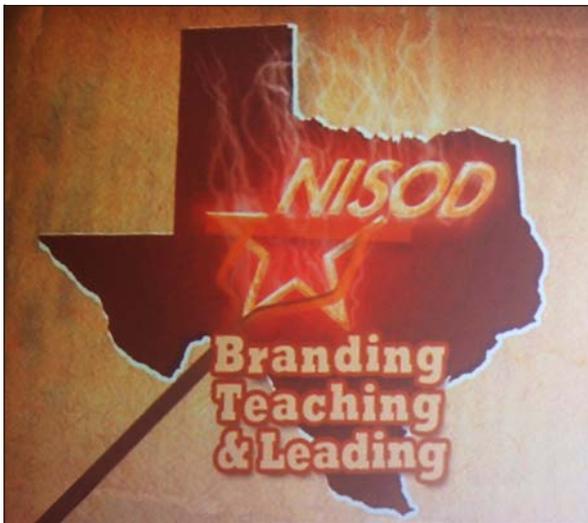


July 2010

# the Coyote HOWLER



## CERRO COSO STAFF ATTEND ANNUAL NISOD CONFERENCE

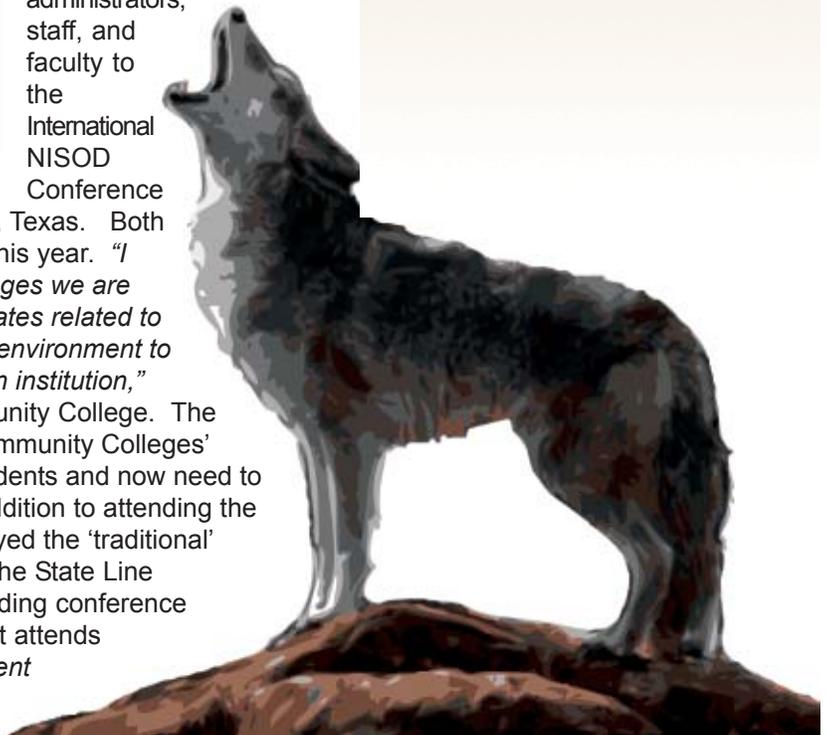


Since 1978, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) has been dedicated to the professional development of faculty, administrators, and staff of over 700 community colleges worldwide. This year Cerro Coso Community College sent six administrators, staff, and faculty to the International NISOD Conference

on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in Austin, Texas. Both Jill Board and Mary Retterer were in attendance this year. *"I found many sessions very pertinent to the challenges we are facing at Cerro Coso, from meeting federal mandates related to authenticating students in the online instructional environment to evaluating just how innovative you really are as an institution,"* stated Jill Board, President of Cerro Coso Community College. The general sessions reinforced the message that Community Colleges' have done a great job of increasing access to students and now need to focus on students' success and completion. In addition to attending the conference's sessions the Cerro Coso Team enjoyed the 'traditional' meals at a local Mexican restaurant and BBQ at the State Line Restaurant. *"NISOD is, by far, the best team-building conference for faculty and staff, especially when the president attends with the team."* stated *Mary Retterer, Past-President of Cerro Coso Community College.*

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*What other participants are saying:*



**Charles Martin, Adjunct Math Instructor, Adjunct Faculty of the Year**

*“The amount of information presented at the conference was mind numbing,”* stated Charlie Martin, Adjunct Math Instructor, at Cerro Coso Community College. Martin was the recipient of the Associated Students of Cerro Coso Adjunct Faculty “Award for Teaching Excellence” in 2009. Serving, engaging, and inspiring higher education faculty, staff, and administrators are the focus of the Annual NISOD conference. Martin found the information to be very valuable and overwhelming at times. *“It’s exciting and you want to take it all in, but there is just so much going on,”* stated Martin. One of his favorite presentations was on “Surviving and Thriving in Today’s College Classroom.” He plans to implement some of the strategies discussed in the presentation including: getting to know his students better sooner, in order to engage them quicker in the study of math. Research has shown that the better engaged a student is in a subject of study the better they are at mastering the subject. *“I really want to experiment with this concept and see if it helps my students”*, stated Martin. *“My recommendation to future participants is to be prepared for the array of information that is presented over the span of this four day conference.”*



**Rudy Solidarios, Custodian, Outstanding Classified Staff of the Year**

*“It was a memorable experience,”* stated Cerro Coso classified staff member, Rudy Solidarios, on his attendance at the 2010 NISOD Conference. For the past two years Cerro Coso Community College sent administrators, faculty, and classified staff to the conference that have been recognized by their peers for their excellence in teaching and service to students. Solidarios, a custodian at the College since 1997, was named the 2009 “Outstanding Classified Staff Member of the Year” by his colleagues who honored him for his hard work, dedication, determination, and caring attitude. Solidarios was thrilled by the attention he received from conference attendees who were “friendly” and “congratulated” him on his achievement and service to the students. One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation given by outgoing Cerro Coso President, Dr. Mary Retterer, on the K-16 Bridge Program that combines in-class lessons, career education, and technology to increase the number of students transitioning to post-secondary institutions. *“With a daughter in high school, I see how important programs like this are to encouraging young people to continue on in their educations. I also have a better understanding of how important I am to the educational experiences at Cerro Coso Community College. I hope all classified get the opportunity to attend this conference at some point in their careers,”* concluded Solidarios.



**Dr. Erie Johnson, Director of South Kern/Kern River Valley Center**

*“The conference was well done and worth the time and resources to attend,”* stated Dr. Erie Johnson, Director of Cerro Coso’s Kern River site. *“One of the most important program strands of the conference was the focus given to the individuals receiving Excellence Awards from the different colleges. They were shown respect and recognized for the work they contribute at their colleges.”* Notable presentations attended by Dr. Johnson included “Partnerships that work: Leveraging resources to promote community engagement” presented by Susan Karr, President, Lone Star College, Texas. Karr shared how the college partnered with the Library and hospital to combine facilities and leveraged resources to benefit both students and citizens. He also attended Dr. Retterer and Mr. Piercy’s presentation on the “K-16 Bridge Program” created to address the college-going rates at their schools. *“This program combines in-class lessons, career education, and technology to create a college-going culture.”*

Also of high interest to Johnson was the presentation by Andy Vaughn, Director, Strategic Programs, Monster Public Sector and Education, New York on “Revolutionary Tools to Create the High-Performance Workforce”.

*“Monster PSE has created data analysis and outreach programs to help create a high-performance workforce. They align curriculum with real needs and fill the pipeline with skilled talent to support regional economic development and strategies. Monster PSE also has general data for public use and focused data down to a county level that identifies competencies needed. They also show how many new and current employees are needed with these competencies and will help identify funding sources for their service,”* concluded Johnson.

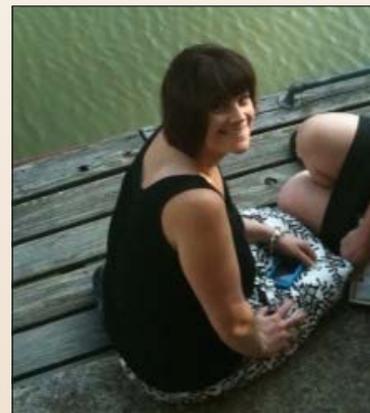
**Kimberlee Kelly-Schwartz, PE Professor, Full Time Faculty of the Year**

*“My trip to Austin TX for the annual NISOD conference has left me with several lasting impressions. The first is an affirmation that community colleges are a system of excellence. Throughout our country community colleges create access to higher education to many who would otherwise would not have that opportunity. I loved hearing stories of success and creativity and teamwork, mostly because I see us doing that too,”* stated Kimberlee Kelly-Schwartz, who was awarded the full time Faculty of the Year. Kimberlee attended several workshops on leadership and creating healthy and hardworking teams. *“My hope was to come away with ideas to be a better advisor and mentor to my student leaders. I got everything I was looking for and invaluable tips and ideas. I appreciate the opportunity to attend this conference! Thank you,”* she concluded.

**Heather Ostash, Counselor, K-16 Bridge Program Coordinator**

*“Participation in the NISOD conference was an inspiring, energizing experience. The environment is one of creativity and innovation and the expectation is that this will be brought back to your home campus,”* stated Heather Ostash who coordinates counseling services for Cerro Coso. Heather found that the breakout sessions offered a tremendous breadth of content. *“I attended sessions that ranged from demonstrations of software tools to improve instruction/services to strategies to make the employee evaluation process meaningful.”* The session on evaluations was particularly helpful for her. *“The evaluation process is the most important means we have for providing feedback to employees of the college, but can sometimes become a less than effective exercise. This session provided some practical strategies and some insightful questions about the nature of our processes that was both thought provoking and useful,”* she shared.

Heather also attended a session on the “Achieving the Dream (ATD),” a national effort to increase community college student success through data-driven decision making. The session highlighted schools participating in ATD, the process for looking at their outcomes data, and the strategies they have employed that are significantly improving student success and retention. *“These schools have engaged in challenging, candid conversations about what they do and do not do well and have used that information to effect meaningful change. The session was inspiring, and I look forward to the possibility of Cerro Coso participation in ATD,”* concluded Ms. Ostash.



## I'M GOING TO COLLEGE BRINGS 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS TO COLLEGE CAMPUS



Cerro Coso Community College hosts area 5<sup>th</sup> graders at their annual "I'm Going to College" events in April and May. Students enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities including campus tours and department demonstrations in Health Careers, Solar Technology, Physical Education, and Lego Robotics.

On Thursday, April 29, 2010 Cerro Coso Community College hosted 250 area 5<sup>th</sup> graders as part of their "I'm Going to College" program. Children from all over the valley came to tour the college and enjoy a fun-filled day of activities, which included demonstrations from the college's Health Careers, Solar Technology, and Physical Education Departments.

The day began with a personal "Welcome" from the College President, Mary Retterer, and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. James Fay. Cerro Coso student ambassadors, baseball players, and Associated Student Body members then gave the children tours of the IWV campus including a trip through the Cerro Coso Child Development Center. Instructor Debby Kurti engaged the children with a Lego Robotics Demonstration in the Learning Resource Center and then the 5<sup>th</sup> graders were treated to a lunch in the campus courtyard.

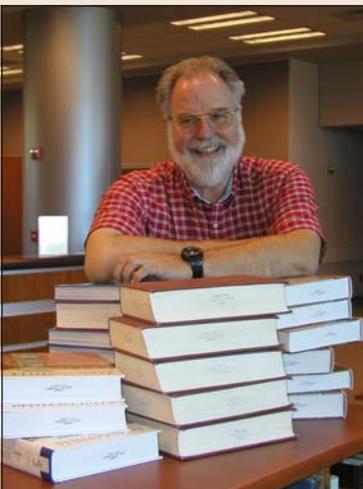
Another "I'm Going to College" event was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Yet another 170 area 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Inyokern, Gateway, Pierce, St. Ann's, and a group of homeschooler's visited the campus. Students were welcomed by President, Dr. Mary Retterer; Vice President of Student Services, Jill Board; and the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. James Faye. These students enjoyed demonstrations in Solar Technology, Web Design, Interactive Lego Robotics, and also explored the Library and Child Development Centers.

"The *I'm Going to College* event is a great opportunity for area children to learn about the wonderful things Cerro Coso has to offer, both academically and athletically. It's a fun-filled energizing day for everyone - the children, our students, administrators, instructors, and staff," stated President-Elect, Jill Board. "We began this program a number of years ago to expose children to the college experience and to encourage them to go to college. It's never too early to start planning for the future," concluded Board.

## CERRO COSO OFFERS NEW "ASK A LIBRARIAN" SERVICE

Chat with a Librarian 24/7! The Cerro Coso Community College, Learning Resource Center librarians are excited to announce expanded reference services to Cerro Coso students. Visit the Learning Resource Center website at [www.cerrocoso.edu/lrc](http://www.cerrocoso.edu/lrc) and type your question directly into the "Ask A Librarian" chat box and start getting immediate answers to your questions. Need help researching? Need answers? You are only clicks away!

Cerro Coso librarians, as well as experienced librarians from colleges and universities all over the country, staff the service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. "The use of technology to provide students with online access to reference librarian assistance is the fruition of Cerro Coso's long-term plan to become a full-service library for the growing number of distance education students we serve," stated Dr. Dennis VanderWerff, Director of Learning Resources, Cerro Coso Community College.



Robert Jordan

## ADMINISTRATION AND COUNSELING MOVE BACK TO 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR LOCATIONS

Administration and Counseling have returned to their second floor locations. *"Don't mind the mess, it will take a few days to get everything back to normal,"* stated College President Jill Board. The offices were temporarily relocated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the main building due to construction work that needed to be completed in the area as part of the Science Modernization Project. The College took this opportunity to remodel these spaces which includes new carpeting, fresh paint, an expanded conference room, and a new configuration for: switchboard, mail boxes, and office space to accommodate more staff and student needs. *"We appreciate the patience and understanding of the students and staff during the construction and moves,"* said Board.



## iTV MAKE-OVER

Beginning last year, equipment at the Bishop and Mammoth campuses was replaced with new Polycom equipment provided through ProVidea. The new equipment has proven to be virtually trouble-free and the faculty have been pleased with their experience in these two rooms. This is the same feedback we received from the Health Careers Program instructors that also teach using the Polycom systems, purchased approximately two years ago. Not so from those who were still using the existing equipment located at Ridgecrest and Kern River Valley Campuses. Over the past few years, instructors have experienced an increased number of issues with equipment ranging from a poor quality picture on the monitors to connectivity issues resulting from different types of equipment. Frustration was growing for both instructors and students.

In coordination with the KCCD Information Technology department, Cerro Coso Community College recently consulted with a video design team to assess five additional iTV rooms, both for layout and type of equipment. New equipment was then purchased to replace the outdated equipment in these classrooms. Equipment installation is scheduled to begin the week of 6/21/10 and be completed in July, ready for use in the fall 2010 semester.

As a result of these new installations, we will have nine rooms equipped with standardized equipment. At the Flex Day for fall faculty will receive training on the new equipment that will allow them to teach in any of the rooms. Faculty will no longer face the frustration of having to know how to operate different systems for different rooms. The revised equipment layout, with both remote classroom and content monitors in the front center of the room, should improve the effectiveness of the learning environment. We anticipate a significant reduction in the number of trouble calls and a substantial improvement in the educational experience.



## TERRA GEN DONATES WIND TURBINE TO CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Terra Gen Power has donated a Danish Nordtank wind turbine to Cerro Coso Community College for use in Industrial Technology – Wind Technician program at the college. “This is a significant contribution to our solar and wind technology classes at Cerro Coso,” stated Larry Board, Industrial Technology Faculty member. The Nordtank wind turbine is known for its strength and reliability in the Californian wind fields. “This 25 year old wind turbine will be very helpful in our class demonstrations on concepts, gear boxes, generators, and props. Terra Gen’s donation allows us to teach beyond theory and gives our students the opportunity to see first-hand what it takes to harness energy,” said Board.

Cerro Coso offers classes in both wind and solar energy to prepare students for careers in the fields of renewable energy. Solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal alternative energy sources are being utilized throughout the College’s service area which includes the counties of Mono, Inyo, and Kern. “As the demand for energy conservation increases, Cerro Coso Community College’s Industrial Technology program has emphasis areas in Solar and Wind Technology to prepare students to enter the workforce to meet the need for skilled technicians who can repair and maintain the necessary equipment,” stated Valerie Karnes, Dean of Career Technical Education at the college. “We appreciate Terra Gen’s support and assistance. Their donation will make a big impact on our programs”.



(l to r) Cerro Coso College Renewable Energy Instructor, Larry Board; Carolyn Wiles and Raudel Castanon from Terra Gen

### 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.cerrococo.edu>

#### Visit Cerro Coso on the web:

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

